THERE'S MAGIC BEHIND THOSE WALLS
CASTLES OF NORTH ENGLAND {page 20}

GRANVILLE'S GLORIOUS FOOD
MARKET GASTRONOMIC PARADISE {page 24}

ENGAGEMENT'S OFF FOR BILSON
PRETTY PAIR CALL IT QUITS
{page 19}

VANCOUVER metro®
Wednesday, August 11, 2010
www.metronews.ca

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Basketball. International

▶ Team Canada's Jevohn Shepherd, right, grabs a pass out of the air as teammate Kelly Olynyk looks on during second half basketball action against Team China at Rogers Arena last night.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada beats China in friendly

Guard Andy Rautins scored 19 points, including four three-pointers, as Canada defeated China 86-62 in an international basketball exhibition game in Vancouver. This was Canada's first home game since 2008. Next up Canada plays France Thursday and Friday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto in preparation for the FIBA world championships that begin Aug. 28 in Turkey.

Dog killed for biting girl's face

▶ 3-year-old dog had no history of aggression ▶ B.C. SPCA commends owner for making 'difficult' decision to euthanize animal ▶ Owner not facing charges: RCMP

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

A 10-year-old Maple Ridge girl is recovering with upwards of 100 stitches after her neighbour's dog bit her face.

The owner of the dog — a German shepherd, bull terrier cross — purportedly had the animal euthanized yesterday, said Laurie Chortyk, spokesperson for the B.C. SPCA.

"Apparently the little girl and her friend ... asked the female owner if they could pet the dog," said Chortyk.

"She put it on a leash and brought it around ... and unfortunately she put her face right into the dog's face. Apparently the dog just snapped and lunged."

The child was rushed to Ridge Meadows Hospital where doctors treated her disfiguring facial injuries. Police were then called to the scene along with the B.C. SPCA.

"There tends to be more attention (when pit bulls and bull terriers attack) because it's a more severe (injury). Golden retrievers and chihuahuas bite far more often."
LAURIE CHORTYK, B.C. SPCA

Chortyk said when someone puts their face close to a dog's face, the animal may perceive it as a sign of aggression.

"People need to be really careful about other people approaching their animals and to teach kids how to (safely) approach them," she said.

Crime

Meltdown alleged on plane

▶ Male flight attendant becomes Internet sensation after being accused of cursing out passenger ▶ Appears in court to face charges {page 7}

Films go back to the future

It's the '80s all over again for this year's action flicks {page 10}

NHL scrutinizes Luongo deal

Multi-year contract one of four under investigation {page 28}

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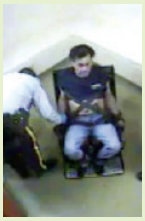
WILLIAMS LAKE

Restraint was for safety: RCMP

Watch the video at metronews.ca/vancouver

The man seen in a video being tied to a chair by police was not severely intoxicated, RCMP said yesterday.

Lloyd Gilbert was arrested for causing a disturbance and the restraint chair, which police say is an approved device, was used to keep him from harming himself, others and property.



Gilbert was tied to a chair for three hours and 20 minutes, during which he urinated on himself, and was checked twice.

METRO VANCOUVER

More racist graffiti

Racist graffiti targetting Richmond's Chinese community has been found in a parkade for the second time in less than four weeks.

Death threats and swastikas were found scrawled on the walls of the Richmond Public Market parkade staircase on Monday, officials said.

Ted Townsend, spokesperson for the City of Richmond, said the community shouldn't be afraid.

"The people who do this kind of thing are despicable."

MIKE FARNWORTH, NDP PUBLIC SAFETY CRITIC

"(This is) an isolated act. The work of a few misguided individuals and we are very concerned ... and disturbed," he said.

Cpl. Sherrdean Turley said Richmond RCMP are working with Richmond mall management to gather information on possible suspects.

On July 22, two teens were arrested after security camera footage allegedly showed them drawing racist graffiti at another Richmond parkade. The 16-year-old boy is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 25.

VANESSA YEE

B.C. court zaps Taser challenge

Last year, company sent out news release boasting it has won its 100th dismissal of liability lawsuit

Taser International lost its bid yesterday to quash a public inquiry report that found its products can kill.

British Columbia's Supreme Court rejected Taser's argument that it was not treated fairly by the inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death, concluding it had "no merit."

The Arizona-based weapons manufacturer has a long history of litigation against any suggestion the stun guns are unsafe.

The company challenged inquiry commissioner Thomas Braidwood's findings after he released a report on the weapons last year. Braidwood concluded Tasers have the capacity to affect the heart and trigger a fatal heart arrhythmia. He said it was difficult to precisely quantify that risk, but he described it as low. Taser asked the court to throw out all of Braidwood's findings about safety and his subsequent recommendations, claiming the retired judge ignored dozens of medical studies provided by the company.

"It's just another vindication of the excellent job that Commissioner Braidwood did."

ART VERTLIEB, COMMISSION'S LAWYER

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Commissioner Thomas Braidwood said he and his staff did due diligence when looking at Tasers during the inquiry into the death of Robert Dziekanski.

1 news

First details of Canada's withdrawal from Afghanistan trickle out. Scan code for story.

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Omar Khadr's lawyer says suiting up for court made his client 'human again.' Video at metronews.ca/canada

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Changes put us at risk: Sex worker

Sex workers will turn to unsafe practices because of changes made last week to the Criminal Code, a 24-year veteran of the Vancouver sex trade said yesterday.

Susan Davis said sex workers are safer in groups but the federal government now considers the keeping of a bawdy house — a brothel — with three or more workers a serious offence punishable by up to five years in jail.

"It feels like we're taking 10 steps backwards," Davis said.

"(This) throws a lot of confusion for people who were starting to feel safer, reporting and interacting with police."

Joyce Arthur, an advocate for sex workers, said the government's mandate should be to protect workers, no matter what their jobs are.

NATASHA POON

Crime. Animal cruelty

▶ Golden-lab cross April Rain suffered deep cuts and bruises after being dragged behind her owner's truck.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE B.C. SPCA

Dog owner charged

Bobby Elliott, from Merritt, allegedly wanted to exercise his dog when he tethered April Rain to his truck and had her run behind. Elliot is facing animal cruelty charges and could face up to six months in jail and a $10,000 fine.

Net over nookie? Maybe not in B.C.

85% of British Columbians use the Internet: StatsCan ◐ In 5 years, Internet usage has jumped 20%

VANESSA YEE
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

British Columbians are the least likely in Canada to give up sex in favour of the Internet, according to survey by Yahoo Inc.

In May, the company commissioned a survey polling more than 1,500 Canadians between the ages of 25 and 64 on Internet usage.

It found that 23 per cent of British Columbians would rather give up sex for one year than give up the Internet. The Canadian average was 33 per cent.

Heather Cabot, Yahoo Web Life editor, said time spent online has tripled in the last 15 years.

If not sex, then ...

The Internet is so important to British Columbians that:

- 72 per cent would give up alcohol and 59 per cent would give up coffee.
- 51 per cent would give up TV for a year.
- 33 per cent would give up their car for a year.
- 25 per cent would give up their friends, while 23 per cent would give up time with their families, and 19 per cent would give up their partner.

32 Across Canada, 32 per cent of respondents said they could not live without viewing adult entertainment on the Internet.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Twenty-three per cent of British Columbians would rather give up sex for a year than the Internet, according to a Yahoo survey.

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Elections B.C. to rule today on HST petition

Organizers confident in positive result Initiative, if successful, will go to committee: Premier

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Bill Vander Zalm at an anti-HST rally.

Organizers behind Fight HST are confident Elections B.C. will today verify that the group has signed up 10 per cent of voters in each provincial riding in their battle against the new tax.

"I don't expect anything other than a positive result," Bill Vander Zalm said. "We were told from the outset ... that if they found a constituency that didn't meet the required numbers they would quit the count and call it a day."

Fight HST claimed to have gathered more than 700,000 signatures calling for the extinguishment of the 12 per cent HST.

Elections B.C. hired 60 people to verify the signatures and have until 4:30 p.m. today to respond to the petition.

Premier Gordon Campbell said Monday, if it was successful, the initiative would go before a parliamentary committee.

Vander Zalm predicts the government will stall the process and plans to target Liberal MLAs with recall if the issue isn't dealt with by mid-November.

Charity. BBQ

▶ Volunteers Stefanie Cramer, left, and Carrie Wheeler serve up a Texas-style barbecue to people in the Downtown Eastside yesterday.

JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Volunteers hand out good eats

Thousands of meals were served to people at Oppenheimer Park by 48 cooks and 100 volunteers from the Glowbal Restaurant Group and Union Gospel Mission. In all, 1,000 pounds of pulled pork, 60 trays of cornbread and 800 pounds of potato salad were served. Glowbal president Emad Yacoub said he wanted to host a summer charity event after the restaurant group collected 2,500 coats last Christmas.

180 people are estimated to be aboard the MV Sun Sea, a cargo ship off B.C.'s coast.

Jail gets prepped

Two Maple Ridge prison facilities are being readied for the arrival of Sri Lankan migrants who are believed to be in a cargo ship. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

▶ Woodward

Alleged gay bashing decision set for today

COURTS. The verdict into an alleged gay bashing has been delayed until this morning. A provincial court judge said yesterday he wasn't ready to say if Shawn Woodward, 37, is guilty of assault after Ritchie Dowrey, 62, was left with a brain injury after being punched in a Davie Street pub.

NATASHA POON

Man shot by Mountie ID'd

POLICING. Police have identified a man shot to death by Langley RCMP as Jeffrey James Alvin Wright, 22. Wright was shot on Aug. 6 after officers responded to a domestic disturbance. Vancouver police are investigating.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Drought could imperil fish: Province

INDUSTRY. The B.C. government says drought conditions in the northern half of the province could put fish stocks at risk and lead to water shortages. Parts of northern B.C. got only about one quarter to one half the normal amount of rain in the last two months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ammunition explodes in house fire

WEAPONS. Firefighters in the North Okanagan had to drop and find cover after arriving at a burning home near Vernon yesterday morning. Hundreds of rounds of ammunition in a storage room were exploding in the heat — the elderly homeowners escaped after being woken up by their dog and no one was hurt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-inmate heads suit claiming sex abuse by prison employee

A former inmate is heading a class-action lawsuit against the province on behalf of prisoners who suffered sexual abuse at the hands of an employee at the now-closed Oakalla prison in Burnaby.

The plaintiff, who is identified by the initials E.D.L., names Roderick David MacDougall in the suit.

The former prison employee was convicted on nine counts of sexual or indecent assault for offences that spanned 21 years.

MacDougall approved day passes for inmates as bribes for oral sex.

METRO VANCOUVER

100 The number of MacDougall's victims that were identified by the time of the last court case in 2006, said lawyer Jim Poyner in a release.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This screen grab taken from MySpace shows flight attendant Steve Slater.

Flight attendant who quit on job faces 3 charges

Defence lawyer says Slater was under stress due to mother's cancer ◐ Actions garner some public support

A JetBlue flight attendant was suspended yesterday after accusations that he cursed out a passenger over a plane's loudspeakers, grabbed some beer from the galley and exited on the emergency slide.

The lawyer for the attendant, who has become an Internet sensation, said the rule-breaking passenger provoked him.

A spokesman for the New York City jails confirms Steven Slater was released on bail last night.

Slater wore a slight smile yesterday as he was led into a Queens, N.Y., courtroom to be arraigned on charges of criminal mischief, reckless endangerment and trespassing.

JetBlue Airways removed him from duty pending the investigation; the airline declined to comment on the specifics of the flight from Pittsburgh to Kennedy Airport.

Police and prosecutors said Slater, a 38-year-old airline industry veteran, lost his temper Monday afternoon after a dispute with a passenger, then fled the parked jet by deploying the emergency chute and walking across the tarmac to an unlocked door that led to the street.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

13,000

Number of people who had "liked" a Facebook page set up in Slater's honour by yesterday morning, lauding his dramatic stand.

TRIAL

Khadr jury selection begins

The judge in Omar Khadr's war-crimes trial has told the panel of U.S. military officers on the jury panel that the accused is presumed innocent unless proven otherwise.

Col. Patrick Parrish told the potential jurors: "It is vitally important that you keep an open mind about this trial."

Canadian-born Khadr was in court for the jury selection. Wearing a medium-grey suit and tie, instead of the usual white prison uniform, he watched as the instructions were given yesterday morning.

Khadr faces five charges, including murder in the death of U.S. special forces Sgt. Chris Speer.

The Pentagon alleges Khadr threw a hand grenade that killed Speer in Afghanistan in July 2002. Khadr was 15 years old at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swine flu pandemic finally over

The World Health Organization acknowledged yesterday that the swine flu pandemic is finally over, long after many national authorities started cancelling vaccine orders and shutting down telephone hot lines as the disease ebbed from the headlines.The official death toll — once predicted to be in the millions — reached 18,449 last week

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asia's floods a nightmare for millions fleeing

Short-term aid and long-term assistance needed for survivors to recover ◐ Scope of damage hard to assess

The death toll from landslides in northwestern China more than doubled to 702 yesterday, as rescue crews in three Asian countries struggled to reach survivors from flooding that has imperiled millions of people.

Rescuers digging by hand through mud found a 52-year-old man who had been trapped for more than 50 hours inside a levelled apartment building in the remote town of Zhouqu, where more than 1,000 other people were still listed as missing.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari returned home to a storm of criticism after visiting Europe as his country was gripped by the worst floods in its history.

His arrival yesterday came as thousands of people fled a major city in central Pakistan as rivers threatened to submerge the area.

And rescuers in the desert mountainsides in Indian-controlled Kashmir recovered more bodies, with the death toll rising to 165 from flash floods.

Thousands of army and paramilitary soldiers continued clearing roads and removing the debris of hundreds of homes flattened in the Ladakh region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The magnitude

The devastation from the floods is immense.

- **China** Flooding has killed about 1,800 people this year and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions.
- **Pakistan** Two weeks of flooding have killed 1,500. The Pakistani Taliban, which is allied to al-Qaida and is fighting for the overthrow of the Pakistani state, urged the government not to accept Western aid for flood relief.

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Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Paul Sullivan's Just Sayin' column will return Aug. 18

TALIBAN KILLING AFGHANS: UN

The number of Afghan civilians killed or injured in the war soared 31 per cent in the first six months of the year, with Taliban bombings and assassinations largely responsible for the rise, the United Nations reported yesterday.

Hidden bombs and suicide attacks are killing and maiming so many Afghans that Amnesty International urged the Afghan government to seek prosecution of Taliban leaders for war crimes. Women and children are increasingly bearing the brunt of the conflict — even as NATO restrains the use of force on the battlefield.

The UN report found the number of deaths and injuries caused by NATO and Afghan government forces dropped by 30 per cent compared with the first six months of last year, largely a result of curbs on the use of air power and heavy weapons.

"Targeting of civilians is a war crime, plain and simple."
SAM ZARIFI, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

But the overall sharp rise in deaths and injuries indicate the war is growing ever more violent, undermining the coalition's aim of improving security for ordinary Afghans in the face of a virulent Taliban insurgency.

Violence has paralyzed life in much of the country, especially the south, where many people are afraid to work with the Afghan government, run a business or travel. The last two months have seen record death tolls for U.S. and NATO forces on the battlefield.

"The human cost of this conflict is unfortunately rising," said Staffan De Mistura, the top UN envoy in Afghanistan. "We are very concerned about the future because the human cost is being paid too heavily by civilians. This report is a wake-up call."

According to the UN report, at least 1,271 Afghans were killed and 1,997 were injured — mostly from bombings — in the first six months of the year. The UN said the figures represented a 31 per cent increase in civilian deaths and injuries over the same period last year.

The UN said the Taliban and their allies were responsible for 76 per cent of all civilian deaths and injuries. The report attributed the rise to greater Taliban use of larger and more sophisticated hidden bombs throughout the country and a 95 per cent increase in targeted assassinations.

An updated Taliban code of conduct distributed to insurgents in southern Afghanistan this month urged their fighters to avoid killing civilians, suggesting the militant leadership is also sensitive to a possible public backlash among their support base.

However, the Taliban consider anyone who works for or shows support for the Afghan government and its international partners to be traitors and legitimate targets for death. Roadside bombs intended for NATO convoys often strike civilian vehicles instead. Suicide attacks in outdoor markets and other public places routinely end up killing or maiming civilians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

A provocative reminder

Letters & Tweets

TORONTO. Eminem's Love the Way You Lie does not endorse domestic violence. It is rather a provocative reminder of the phenomenon.

None of the lyrics in the song suggest that Eminem, or Rihanna, endorse domestic violence. Contrary to the complaints of simple-minded and emotionally charged people, Eminem is not saying that domestic violence is an acceptable or glorifiable lifestyle; he is sending a message (to thousands of people at one time) that sheds light on the common cycles of violence that take place in abusive relationships.

Rapping against violence

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Eminem's artistic portrayal of this sensitive topic may be misinterpreted, but that is through no fault of his own. He is not responsible for misunderstandings of the lyrics of his song.

Furthermore, the video rendition of the song does not endorse or glorify domestic violence any more than war documentaries endorse war. Like a documentary, Eminem and Rihanna's collaboration bring to light an issue that is often thrown into the background in the face of other issues. If somebody draws motivation to be abusive, that is not the fault of the artist, but the failure of the individual and the social system.

DENIS CANHASI

What would you do if you were prime minister?

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Metro Minute at Coquitlam drive-in

Indulge in some drive-in nostalgia at the Coquitlam Centre's Summer drive-in movie night.

Tonight is action-thriller night with Iron Man as the featured film. The movie begins at dusk and the parking lot opens at 8 p.m.

Tickets are a minimum donation of $10 per car and all proceeds go to SHARE family and community services.

Preferred passes can be purchased in advance at Guest Services and movie treats can be purchased at the plaza area. For those without cars, there will be a lawn chair zone at $5 per person. Space is limited, so arrive early. For more information, visit coquitlamcentre.com.

VANESSA YEE

PUBLICITY HANDOUT

▶ Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man.

ECONOMY

Fed acts to support recovery

As recently as two months ago, the Federal Reserve sounded optimistic about the economic recovery. Now the central bank is clearly more worried, and economists say there is not much more it can do to help.

The Fed said yesterday that it would spend a relatively small amount of money — about $10 billion a month — buying government debt. The move is designed to drive interest rates on mortgages and corporate borrowing at least a little lower and help the economy grow faster.

In a statement after a one-day meeting, the Fed said the pace of the recovery "has slowed in recent months." After its last meeting in late June, the Fed was rosier, saying that the recovery was "proceeding" and the job market actually improving.

The decision to buy government debt was a shift from early this year when the Fed was laying out plans to roll back some of the measures it took during the financial crisis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. YESTERDAY

DOLLAR	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	OIL	TSX
- 0.53¢ US	- 1.2¢ US	- $1.23 US	- 25.27
96.87¢	$4.297	$80.25	11,838.29
	Gold		
	- $4.50 US		
	$1,196.20		

Housing starts down for third month

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/FILE

▶ Canada's recent housing slowdown has been dramatic.

- Shows economy still fragile
- Mortgage rates rising

Canadian housing starts fell in July for the third straight month and home prices rose less than anticipated in June, according to new reports that reinforced signs of a dampening trend in the housing market that is expected to continue into next year.

Housing starts slid last month to the lowest level of home building activity seen since the start of the year, said TD Bank economist Dina Cover.

"Existing home sales have been trending down since the start of this year," she wrote in a report.

The number of new home starts fell to 189,200 last month, with the drop led by a decline in single-unit homes, according to figures released yesterday by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

"Lower home prices have dampened the incentive for home building."
DINA COVER,
TD BANK ECONOMIST

July's figures came in just above market expectations for 185,000 new homes — but represented a 1.6 per cent decline from the previous month after the agency revised June's starts upward to 192,300 from 189,300.

In a related housing market report released yesterday, Statistics Canada said the New Housing Price Index rose 0.1 per cent in June following a 0.3 per cent increase in May.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour stats confusing

It is the most power-packed economic data Statistics Canada produces, capable of making and breaking governments, moving markets and influencing the direction of interest rates.

But questions are increasingly being raised about whether the agency's monthly jobs reports are too wonky to trust.

Eyebrows were raised all over Bay Street last week when the respected agency released its employment numbers for the month of July, with some analysts going so far as to say they should be thrown in the garbage can.

The big head-scratcher was the claim that 139,000 full-time jobs had vanished as if into thin air, including 65,000 in educational services.

Meanwhile, the country supposedly added 93,000 jobs in June but the number of hours worked went down.

July's employment setback, particularly in full-time work, reversed one of the strongest quarters of job creation on record — a three-month tear that added 227,000 jobs, three-quarters of them full-time.

Some analysts said they never really bought into the April-to-June numbers.

"Canada's reported hiring boom was simply a bit too good to be true," said Avery Shenfeld, chief economist with CIBC World Markets.

Statistics Canada does caution that the monthly data, derived from a survey of households, is subject to a margin of error like all polls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Education may get Smart

Montreal's Smart Technologies Inc. expects growth opportunities for its touchscreen, Internet-connected whiteboards as more classrooms and boardrooms go digital, replacing their blackboards with more interactive technology.

President Nancy Knowlton said she expects the education sector to deliver significant growth because only seven per cent of the global demand for digital whiteboards has been met.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manulife gets credit downgrade

Manulife Financial has been downgraded by credit rating agency DBRS after the insurance giant reported a $2.4-billion quarterly loss last week.

The Dominion Bond Rating Service has pulled back Manulife's long-term debt and preferred share ratings to AA (low) from AA.

The ratings agency said it expects earnings volatility to continue at elevated levels, despite the "best efforts" of management.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers sell Maple Leaf stake

One of Maple Leaf Foods' largest shareholders is selling an 11 per cent stake in the food processor and says it's open to divesting its remaining 25 per cent interest.

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, which invests and manages the pensions of 284,000 teachers, said yesterday it will sell 13.7 million voting and non-voting common shares of Maple Leaf to West Face Capital Inc., a Toronto-based investment firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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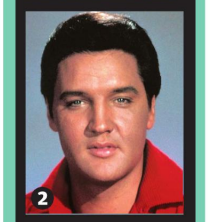
News in brief

1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1 The award-winning documentary, Babies, will be screening for free at theatres across Canada this month in an effort to create awareness about child and maternal health issues.
● METRO

2 The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame plans to celebrate its 15th birthday with a look back at the year rock's "King"" turned 21. An exhibit of photos taken of Elvis Presley in 1956 opens Sept. 13. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Group wants to restore dresses worn by Vivien Leigh in Gone With The Wind

The course of action

Summer blockbusters appeal to fans of '80s thrillers ● Stallone feeds the frenzy with The Expendables

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

With the release of The Expendables soon upon us, so too will theatres be brimming with giddy fans of 1980s action movies.

After all, with a cast that includes Sly Stallone, Dolph Lundgren and Arnold Schwarzenegger, the thriller is a virtual flashback to the Reagan-era blockbuster.

However The Expendables is only one of several '80s-themed action movies Hollywood has discovered lately. This summer alone has seen the reimagining of such decades-old fare as The A-Team, Predators and Clash of the Titans. With more titles to come, it seems Tinseltown is now playing with the '80s action trend.

"There is an obvious nostalgic appeal for these viewers," explained Brock University film studies professor Barry Grant recently. He outlines that many movie-going adults are nostalgic for the decade in which they themselves were impressionable children.

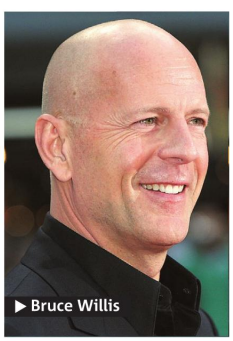
"Hollywood would do much better to go back to the TV shows of the 1950s for inspiration."
BARRY GRANT, FILM STUDIES PROFESSOR AT BROCK UNIVERSITY

"For those viewers who are even younger, films that adapt '80s shows will be of interest because they'll want to see what all the fuss was for their parents."

From a producer's point of view, retooling a recognized brand is surely favourable in a risky, big-budget industry that relies on familiarity and a strong first-weekend box-office. Tackling such '80s action hits as Red Dawn, Conan and even Romancing the Stone (all of which are in production) will surely create a certain curiosity, but the trend is not without its critics.

"Hollywood's turn to the 1980s for subject matter bespeaks the general lack of vision and originality that is pervasive in American cinema today," said Grant.

Stars team for The Expendables


▶ Bruce Willis

Re-introducing The Expendables' Old Guard

Sylvester Stallone — King of the '80s Action Movie, Sly is best known for Rambo, Rocky and of course, that arm-wrestling action hero in Over the Top.

Dolph Lundgren — Recognized as Sly's Russian nemesis Ivan Drago in Rocky IV, Lundgren also starred in Masters of the Universe and The Punisher (1989).

Bruce Willis — Willis made the jump from TV to movies with 1988's Die Hard — which spun-off three successful sequels.

Eric Roberts — Roberts was introduced to action movies with 1989's Best of the Best — a sort of Rocky with martial arts.

Arnold Schwarzenegger — Stallone's main rival as '80s action hero, Arnie made such hits as Conan the Barbarian, The Terminator and Commando.

Mickey Rourke — Although he began as a dramatic actor, Rourke dipped his toe into the action-genre with thrillers like Double Team with Jean-Claude Van Damme.
● STEVE GOW

SUBMITTED PHOTO

▶ Sylvester Stallone is back in fighting form with The Expendables, in theatres Friday.

Toronto gets starring role

Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World set in Toronto
Tourism officials hope to lure fanboys to the city

PHIL BROWN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World opens this weekend with a cast headlined by the likes of Michael Cera and Jason Schwartzman. The film also has another star that might not be apparent until you see it on the big screen: Toronto.

Scott Pilgrim creator Bryan Lee O'Malley grew up in the city and based his graphic novels there. The film adaptation follows suit and while it's not uncommon for Toronto to double for another city in Hollywood movies, seeing a major film actually take place in Toronto is a novelty.

As a result, tourism officials are hoping the movie causes an influx of fanboy tourism like the Twilight series has done to the poor people in Forks, Wash.

"The initiative came about because we all wanted to promote this new movie that essentially uses Toronto as a character in the film," Joel Peters of Tourism Toronto told Metro. Peters is involved with a campaign designed to encourage fans to geek out about Scott Pilgrim all over the city this summer.

Through the TorontoLovesScottPilgrim.com fans can log on to see interviews with cast members talking about their favourite Toronto locations and apply for a movie-themed travel package that includes a stay at the Drake Hotel and trips to Scott Pilgrim backdrops like Lee's Palace and Casa Loma.

Toronto welcomed the production of Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World last summer with open arms and everyone involved in the movie now has favourite spots in the city. Although director Edgar Wright did jokingly reveal one major Canadian retail chain that didn't want to be a part of it.

"Shoppers Drug Mart said 'no.' There you go, let's call them out in Metro. They were the only store who wouldn't let us film there. They got really funny about it," he said.

PHOTO HANDOUT

▶ Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Michael Cera star in Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A Facebook group wants Ellen DeGeneres to be parade marshall at this year's Oktoberfest event in Kitchener, Ont.

Facebook group not giving up on DeGeneres

A campaign trying lure Ellen DeGeneres to be parade marshal for this year's Oktoberfest celebrations in Kitchener, Ont., won't take no for an answer.

Organizers of the Facebook campaign say they won't give up, despite hearing from a spokesperson for DeGeneres who said the talk show host won't be able to fit the parade into her schedule.

The campaign to bring DeGeneres to the region began last year after a photoof the parade made it onto her talk show.

Campaign organizer Linda Zavarella says she's looking at other options, including asking DeGeneres to send a video response. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

Pretty Little Liars going glamping

TEEN TV. A "glamping trip" is the setting for the mid-season finale of the mystery teen series Pretty Little Liars. The girls are reluctant to go "glamping" (a.k.a. glamorous camping) until they receive word that their stalker might be there. Be prepared for a cliffhanger as the ending has "a dangerous twist."
(MuchMusic)
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shaq takes on magic, boxing

REALITY TV On Shaq Vs, the NBA star leaves the hoops for hocus pocus as he challenges illusionists Penn & Teller to a series of magic tricks. He also goes five rounds in the ring with boxing champion (Sugar) Shane Mosley.
(CTV, ABC)
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Lessons learned for T.I.

- Rapper makes return from jail sentence with movie, new album
- Says he's more focused on family, not taking things for granted

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ T.I. served 10 months for federal weapons charges and was released in March this year.

Everything seems to be falling back into place for T.I. since the rapper ended a 10-month term inside a U.S. federal prison and a halfway house earlier this year.

He's got a movie, Takers, coming out Aug. 27 and a new album, King Uncaged, due in late September. But more importantly, the Grammy-winner is putting a stronger focus on his family.

The father of five recently demonstrated that commitment by getting married to his longtime girlfriend, Tameka (Tiny) Cottle, late last month.

"Right now, it's all about moving forward and just acknowledging the blessing that are here today ... Just moving past the regrets of yesterday — the things that could've been done better," said T.I. in an interview last month.

The 29-year-old served seven months in an Arkansas federal prison and three months in a Georgia halfway house on federal weapons charges and was released in March. He said he's been able to relieve the lingering guilt of being unable to protect his best friend Philant Johnson, who was killed following his post-performance party in Cincinnati in 2006.

"I got so down on myself about the loss of his life that I did not acknowledge the fact that I still had mine," he said.

Jason Geter, co-CEO of Grand Hustle Records, T.I.'s label, said T.I. has made more of a conscious effort to spend more time with his family.

"He's not taking things for granted as far as wasting time," Geter said. "He realizes things aren't guaranteed."

T.I. says he's also determined to pick up where he left off after the success of his last album, Paper Trail. It was released in October 2008 and sold more than two million copies and charted three No. 1 songs. He's already released singles, I'm Back and Got Your Back featuring Keri Hilson.

"I just want to make sure that I came back the same way I left," he said. "I left relatively strong. I just wanted to make sure I came back in a way that would support my exit."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netflix spends $1B on movie rights

Netflix Inc. will pay nearly US$1 billion during the next five years for the online streaming rights to movies from Paramount, Lionsgate and MGM in a deal that could help Netflix attract even more subscribers.

The agreement announced yesterday marks another breakthrough in Netflix's bid to stock its online streaming library with more compelling material, so it can keep its subscription service relevant as more households order entertainment through high-speed Internet connections. The online streaming push also helps the company reduce its postage bill for mailing DVDs to its 15 million subscribers.

The deal also makes the three studios' joint pay TV venture, Epix, immediately profitable.

Analysts believe the influx of newer movies will enable Netflix to maintain its rapid growth of the past two years, lifting its earnings even higher despite the hefty licensing fees.

▶ A new deal signed yesterday means Netflix will be able to stream more movies over the Internet, including Star Trek.

Viacom Inc.'s Paramount, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. and Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. are selling Netflix the right to stream movies 90 days after they appear on the Epix pay channel offered through subscription TV providers such as Dish Network Corp. and Cox Communications Inc.

The first crop of movies to be released in Netflix's streaming library on Sept. 1 include G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, The Pink Panther 2, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and all of The Godfather movies. Over the next few months, Iron Man 2 and Star Trek will also be available for streaming.

The movies will be available for streaming on Netflix for 16 or 17 months, after which the rights will shift to basic cable channels.

Netflix now has movie streaming rights that cover about 46 per cent of new releases at the U.S. box office, said Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer. That's comparable to what Time Warner Inc.'s HBO gets for its pay TV channel.

"We are giving people more and more reason to stream instead of waiting to get their DVDs through the mail," Sarandos said.

Although mailing DVDs remains Netflix's bread and butter, Internet streaming has become the company's growth engine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- **Netflix, which is** based in Los Gatos, Calif., offers unlimited Internet streaming along with DVD mailing for as little as $9 per month, a price that has held steady even as the company has substantially increased its spending to expand its online library beyond 20,000 titles, up from 2,000 just a few years ago.
- **The company** announced in July that it plans to expand its service to Canada starting in the fall.

Tai chi group turns 40

World-famous discipline of 108 gentle moves was founded in by immigrant monk

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Gary Soren practices Tai Chi at the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada in Toronto, August 4.

On a recent weekday in the heart of Toronto's Chinatown, a group of people gathered for their regular practice of the discipline of Taoist tai chi — the very picture of calm and easy relaxation as they slowly progressed through a series of gentle synchronized movements.

They're just a few blocks from where the founder of the International Taoist Tai Chi Society, a Taoist monk who immigrated from Hong Kong, held his first classes in 1970.

This week, society members are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the world's largest non-profit tai chi organization, started by Master Moy Lin-shin in Toronto. As more and more students learned the art, and began teaching it to others, the society expanded to 26 countries and more than 40,000 members.

On Saturday, thousands of people around the world, including a sizable Canadian contingent, will mark the occasion by simultaneously completing the 108 moves of the tai chi set at 10 a.m.

"I was very fortunate to be able to study with Master Moy every day for about three years before he passed away in 1998," said Chris Farano, manager of branches in the Greater Toronto Area.

"It was a wonderful experience, and an incredible learning opportunity on many different levels."

"Master Moy, as we referred to him, set an incredible example as an individual in terms of his compassion and desire to help others, and he did it quietly and selflessly, and for many of us, showed us how we could also do it and be of service to others."

Dr. Bruce McFarlane, a rural family physician for the past 40 years and medical adviser to the society, often attends the weekday class in Chinatown led by Andrew Hung. He's been going to the class for six or seven years, he said, ever since having back surgery.

"What I found, personally as I try to recover from my back disease, and patients, (is) that this has much to offer in terms of recovering health and maintaining health," he said. "I found this to be spectacularly helpful and rich.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Studies

- A study was done in the late 1990s looking at whether practising Taoist tai chi would improve balance in seniors, he said, and more study of the health benefits is planned.

Pat Conroy and the future of e-books

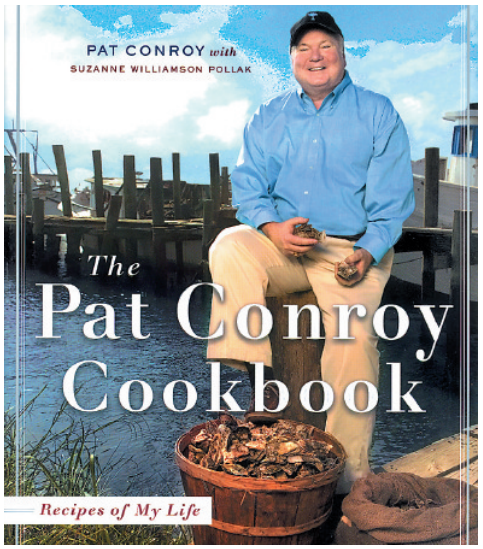
Pat Conroy says he knows so little about e-books that he didn't realize his work could be downloaded until a fan showed him during a recent promotional tour.

"I was at a signing in Georgia, and a guy came up to me with a Kindle and he pressed a button and there it was, my book (South of Broad)," Conroy said during a recent telephone interview.

"I'm a complete ignoramus when it comes to everything about the Internet. ... I couldn't understand these instruments."

Among the country's most beloved writers, the 64-year-old Conroy hasn't allowed his distance from the digital world to keep him from joining it. Much of his work is available electronically and four of his older books, including The Prince of Tides and The Great Santini, are coming out this month through Open Road Integrated Media, a digital company co-founded a year ago by former HarperCollins CEO Jane Friedman and film producer Jeff Sharp.

Conroy is a good example of the divided state of electronic books. With standard contracts now including digital rights, e-editions of his recent works — from South of Broad to a memoir out this fall, My Reading Life — are handled by Random House, Inc., which also releases the bound versions. Meanwhile, rights to his older books have shifted among outside companies.



The Open Road releases were first published by Houghton Mifflin (now Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), but came out before the rise of e-books, when many contracts did not specifically cover rights to electronic editions.

"It's our goal to exercise, or obtain, all e-rights on our entire backlist, including the deep backlist, but in this instance we negotiated an agreed-upon separation of print from electronic, to our mutual satisfaction," Houghton Mifflin Harcourt spokeswoman Lori Glazer said in a statement.

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Virtual drugstore found in home

Many bottles at Anna Nicole Smith's house contained painkillers, opiates, sleeping meds

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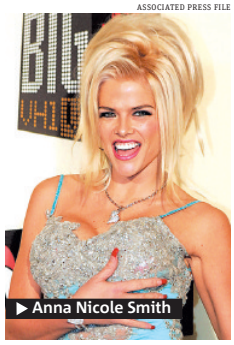

▶ Anna Nicole Smith

A month after Anna Nicole Smith died of a drug overdose, her psychiatrist gathered 44 different prescription drugs from Smith's seaside home in the Bahamas and delivered them to a medical examiner in Florida, according to testimony yesterday in the drug conspiracy trial of the psychiatrist, a doctor and Smith's boyfriend-lawyer.

Dr. Harold Schueler, chief toxicologist for Broward County, Fla., testified he met with Dr. Khristine Eroshevich in March, 2007, when she brought the cornucopia of pills and liquids to his office. Drugs also were found in the Florida hotel room where Smith died of an overdose of at least nine medications.

Under questioning by deputy district attorney David Barkhurst, Schueler said he did not find the powerful sleeping medication chloral hydrate in Smith's bodily fluids because it has a very short life of about four minutes. But he said he found metabolites showing the drug had been present in large amounts and had probably been taken for eight days straight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pee-wee's big bike adventure

STEVE MCENROE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Comedian Paul Reubens, better known as Pee-wee Herman, performs his Tequila dance earlier this week at the Buffalo Chip campground in Sturgis, S.D.

Paul Reubens has sights set on bringing '80s cult phenom Pee-wee Herman back to life

Mean machines and burly bikers didn't draw Amanda White to the world's largest motorcycle rally. She had her sights set on a bow-tied nerd in an ill-fitting grey plaid suit: Pee-wee Herman.

Actor Paul Reubens is reintroducing Pee-wee — his alter ego and 1980s cult character — to fans at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, which is expected to draw more than 500,000 people this week.

"I call it my Pee-wee pilgrimage," said White, a 29-year-old Minneapolis school teacher who had Reubens autograph her bicycle seat.

White is not alone. Plenty of Pee-wee fans have flocked to the Buffalo Chip campground outside Sturgis to see Reubens' character perform at a venue also hosting Ozzy Osbourne, Kid Rock, ZZ Top and Bob Dylan.

"Bob Dylan is here because people like him and Pee-wee is here for the same reason," said Buffalo Chip owner Rod Woodruff. "They are both American icons."

"I'm really bowled over by it," Reubens told The Associated Press Sunday. "There are people from all walks of life here."

Reubens filmed a remake of the infamous Tequila dance biker bar scene from his 1985 comedy Pee-wee's Big Adventure. On Monday, he was slated to participate in various charity events and host what was billed as the world's largest Tequila dance to the tune of the 1958 instrumental by the Champs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Britney to get Glee treatment

NEW YORK. Britney Spears seems set to appear in an episode of the Fox musical-comedy Glee next season.

Show co-creator Ryan Murphy said yesterday day he expects Spears to act in an episode that's "reverential about her." Murphy said he admires how Spears has turned herself around.

On Glee, singers under anesthesia at the dentist's hallucinate about Spears and being like her.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

My TD Points covered my stay at a ski resort (even my ski lessons).

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Parole postponed for Lennon's killer

Yoko Ono continues to oppose Mark David Chapman's release from jail

The parole hearing for John Lennon's killer has been postponed for a month.

Mark David Chapman was scheduled to be interviewed this week at Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York.

A spokesman for the Division of Parole said Chapman was told yesterday that his interview has been rescheduled for early September.

The parole board said it's awaiting more information so it has a complete record. It didn't specify what.

The 55-year-old Chapman has been denied parole five times and has appeared before the board every two years since 2000.

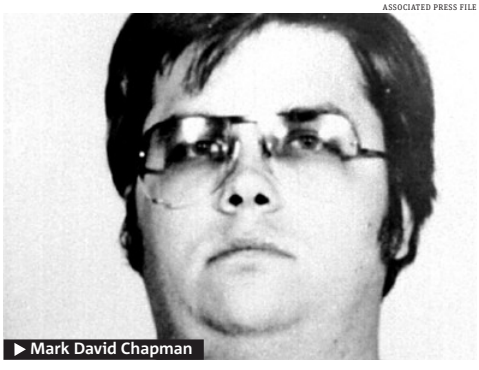
He's serving a sentence of 20 years to life for shooting Lennon four times outside the ex-Beatle's Manhattan apartment building in 1980.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Being 'practical'

- Yoko Ono, 77, said in California last week that she was trying to be "practical" in asking that her husband's killer remain behind bars.
- John Lennon would have turned 70 this October.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



▶ Mark David Chapman

‘Wild’ camera injures Bear

Adventurer had to be airlifted from mountain during shooting of Discovery series Man vs. Wild

PHOTO HANDOUT

▶ Actor Will Farrell and host Bear Grylls in northern Sweden’s mountain ranges during a special Man vs. Wild episode. The series returns to TV tonight.

Adventurer Bear Grylls was surprised by a huge crocodile in Australia, navigated a shark-infested channel off Papua New Guinea and lost the ability to breathe while in free-fall at 30,000 feet during upcoming new episodes of Discovery’s Man vs. Wild.

Yet it was a camera that almost did him in.

Grylls needed to be airlifted from a mountainside in the Canadian Rockies with a badly damaged leg after a camera on a sled slammed into him, the most heart-stopping moment in seven new episodes of the series that starts tonight.

The enthusiastic survivalist had glissaded down a mountain, zipping down the snow on his backside, and stopped himself suddenly by using an ice pick. The camera following him didn’t stop, missing Grylls’ head and shoulder by inches before hitting him in the leg. It didn’t break a bone, but came awfully close.

His first thought was, “Wow, I’m lucky.”

Then the tears came. It had been a stressful stretch of filming, and the emotion of it all came rushing out. The tough guy is only so tough.

“It was a wake-up call,” Grylls said. “You’ve just got to get it right every time. You live with danger a lot and you can get blase, and just can’t do that.”

Grylls should know. His career in the British military ended when he broke his back after a parachute failed following a jump from a helicopter. He moved into the lucrative world of TV adventure, where his never-flagging enthusiasm, willingness to eat virtually anything (sheep’s eyeball, anyone?) and inventive use of common items such as shoelaces to survive uncommon danger made him a compelling draw. (He stuck shoelaces into the crevice of a rocky cliff to collect water when his bottle was nearly empty.)

Discovery viewers relate to Grylls and enjoy the opportunity to live vicariously through his adventures, said Stephen Reverand, Discovery’s senior vice-president for development and production. Beyond the upcoming episodes, Discovery has committed to filming at least 10 more missions starting in September, he said.

The show has recovered from an embarrassment four years ago when it was revealed Grylls had spent time indoors on a mission where the impression was given that he was outdoor in forbidding conditions the whole time.

“What it underscored for us was the continued importance of authenticity and full disclosure,” Reverand said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Behind the scenes

▶ **Bear Grylls** has filmed 65 episodes so far. This season, Discovery airs a behind-the-scenes episode that explains how the series is filmed, and another piece in which Grylls takes two of the show’s fans on an adventure. There’s no celebrity trek like last year’s with Will Ferrell in Sweden.

American Idol winner in hospital after overdose

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino is due to release her third album, Back to Me, on Aug. 24.

Fantasia is in stable condition at a North Carolina hospital after taking an overdose of “aspirin and a sleep aid,” according to the manager for the former American Idol champ.

The overdose came days after the singer was named in court documents by Paula Cook, who accused Fantasia of having an affair with her husband, Antwaun Cook.

Brian Dickens, Fantasia’s manager, said in a statement yesterday that winner was “overwhelmed by the lawsuit and the media attention.”

“Last night, Fantasia was hospitalized. She took an overdose of aspirin and a sleep aid. Her injuries are not life threatening. She was dehydrated and exhausted at the time,” he said. His statement did not specify where she was taken and he did not immediately return a call seeking comment

In the statement, Dickens acknowledged that Fantasia had a relationship with Cook for 11 months, but said that Fantasia believed Cook when he said “he was not happy in his marriage and his heart was not in it. She believed him when he told her he and Mrs. Cook were separated late in the summer of 2009.”

After reading the filing from Paula Cook, Dickens said “there is plenty (Fantasia) does not know” and added that she’s heartbroken over “any pain she may have caused.”

Fantasia, who won the American Idol crown in 2004, is due to release her third album, Back to Me, on Aug. 24. She was supposed to do promotion for the album this week; a Wednesday interview with The Associated Press was cancelled.

Dickens noted the album release in his statement and also referred to one of the album’s songs I’m Here, which talks about being thankful for easy and hard times.

“Fantasia sends her praise to God and her eternal gratitude to her fans, friends, and family,” Dickens said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The calm life of Flipping Out star

Jeff Lewis isn't quite like his reality TV peers.

The obsessive-compulsive star of Flipping Out is something of a black sheep among the Bravolebrities. He's not as fabulous as The Real Housewives nor as chic as the fashionistas of The Rachel Zoe Project, and his palate is less refined than any Top Chef. (He feasts on McNuggets in Tuesday's fourth season premiere.)

While most cogs in Bravo's reality TV drama factory uniformly pop up on gossip blogs and in the pages of tabloid magazines between dispatches about Jennifer Aniston and the Kardashians, the sharp-tongued real estate investor and designer has rarely received such attention since adding reality star to his resumé four years ago.

"I don't want it," he says. "There are red carpet events I could go to every single night. I don't have that kind of time. I stay really focused. The goal of this whole thing for me, of course, is another stream of income, but you know what? I'm also building a business. I have to make money. I'm not just some wealthy socialite."

Despite his on-screen persona, it seems he has a heart:

"Don't tell anybody this because it will ruin my reputation, but every Sunday I'm down visiting my grandmother,'' he says.

"I take care of her. I remodel her house. I bought her a car. I go down there and take out her trash and make sure she has groceries."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The character

- As the show's neat-freak leading man, Lewis has become infamous for his monstrous meltdowns and sarcastic jabs, usually directed at goofy right-hand woman, Jenni Pulos. He seems self-aware, however, and probably isn't the totally delusional nut job that last season's average of 1.27 million viewers came to love and/or loathe.

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(even the Grand Canyon helicopter tour).

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Singing on a Long Road to Love

The 2001 hitmaker Jaron Lowenstein has since shed a brother and moved from L.A. to Nashville for a new album

JOSH ANDERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jaron Lowenstein of Jaron and the Long Road to Love in Nashville, Tenn.

Jaron Lowenstein of Jaron and the Long Road to Love sounds more than a little bitter in his hit single, Pray for You, as he prays for bad things to happen to his ex. But that's only part of his complicated love story.

The rest of it is laid out in his new album, Getting Dressed In The Dark.

"There was one relationship that really sticks with me," he said. "And that's where most of the songs come from."

In fact, Lowenstein, 36, dedicates the album, released in June, to his unnamed ex-girlfriend in the liner notes, thanking her and saying that although she was "annoying at times," he deserves most of the blame and is sorry for hurting her.

"Through help of … my therapist, we worked it out," said Lowenstein, grinning.

Then he caught himself.

"Do country people have therapists? It's such an L.A. thing. You're talking and it's not taboo to be like, 'My therapist and I were talking.' I don't know if in the country world you're allowed to admit that. I have no idea."

Lowenstein burst onto the pop scene with the 2001 hit Crazy For This Girl, sung with twin brother Evan. It was featured on the TV show Dawson's Creek. But a couple years later, success fizzled.

"In 2003, Evan and I decided to take a year off and do some other things. We just wanted a break from the music business, because it can be a love-hate business," said Lowenstein. "That year turned into six, and in 2009 I said, 'Evan, I've got stories to tell.'"

Lowenstein now goes by Jaron and the Long Road to Love. He knows it's confusing, but he has his reasons.

"The idea behind it was to let my listeners know that the songs I'm going to sing and that they're going to hear from me are all about relationships. They're all about me and my experiences, where I got it right and where I got it wrong."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We paid for a weekend getaway to New York with our TD Points
(even the sightseeing tour).

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Montreal kicks off film fest with Can-con

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

▶ Quebec director Louis Belanger.

Quebec director Louis Belanger's crime-spree tale Route 132 will kick off the 2010 edition of the Montreal World Film Festival.

The 12-day event, which starts Aug. 26, will showcase 430 films from 80 countries, organizers announced yesterday.

The festival will close with the period drama The Princess of Montpensier, from French director Bertrand Tavernier.

Belanger's offering is one of 20 films and 16 shorts from 24 countries that will be in official competition. American films competing include Twelve Thirty, the story of a young man caught up in his girlfriend's dysfunctional family, and Carl Colpaert's The Land of the Astronauts, featuring David Arquette as a down-on-his-luck composer.

Other offerings include French director Jean Becker's My Afternoons With Marguerite, starring Gerard Depardieu, and acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's A Woman, A Gun and a Noodle Shop, which has been described as a remake of the Coen Brothers' double-cross yarn Blood Simple.

Festival organizers also claim some novelties among the selection of films, including new takes on a number of historical figures include King Henry IV, revolutionary Che Guevara and Chinese philosopher Confucius. In addition, the fest will feature a documentary called The Truth About Dracula.

France is strongly represented with several films, including Three-Way Wedding, starring Julie Depardieu, whose father Gerard is being honoured at the festival with an evening where he will discuss his life and career.

As well, Stefania Sandrelli, one of the legends of the modern Italian cinema, will be honoured at the festival and present Christine, Christina, which marks her directorial debut. She will also be awarded the Grand Prize of the Americas for lifetime achievement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

International

- Japan, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Poland and Russia are among the other countries that also have entries. Celebrated Danish director Bille August will head the festival jury. Tribute will also be paid to French actress Nathalie Baye, who has worked with such directors as Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut.

Bachelorette tops ratings

Ali Fedotowsky leads show to No. 1 for first time since 2003

The Bachelorette Ali Fedotowsky has a new fiance and some television bragging rights.

The Nielsen Co. said an estimated 11.7 million people watched Fedotowsky give her final rose to insurance agent Roberto Martinez on the ABC show and, in return, get a proposal.

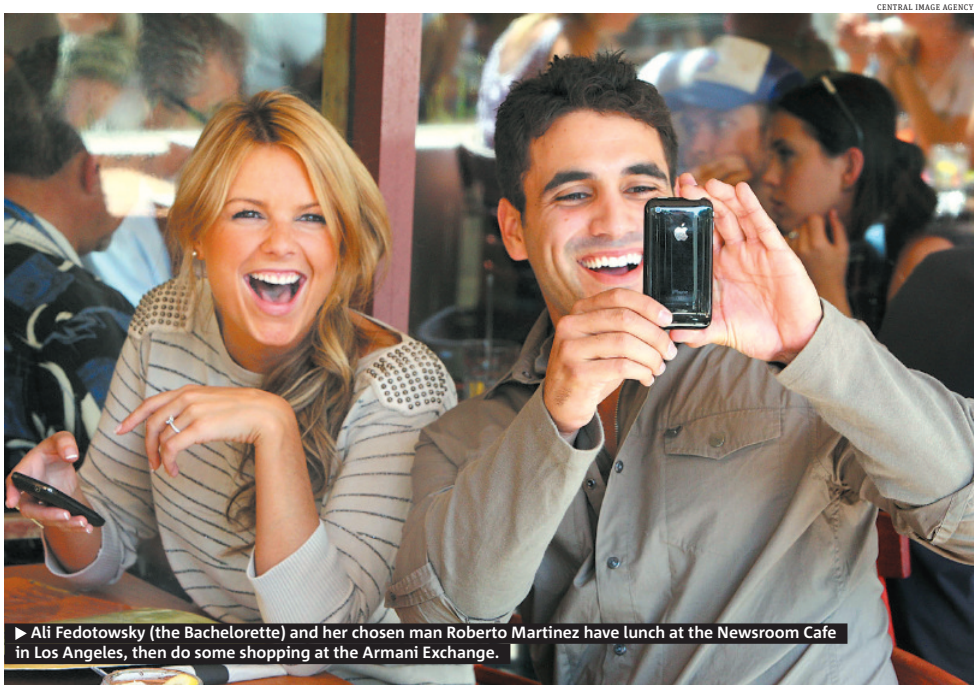
On a quiet August week, that was enough to make The Bachelorette the No. 1 program. It was the first time that the show, which debuted as a spinoff to The Bachelor in 2003, has ever topped the weekly ratings.

The couple plan to settle down together in the San Diego area.

The popular America's Got Talent series and the opening of the NFL's exhibition football season Saturday night enabled NBC to jump into second place for the week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY



▶ Ali Fedotowsky (the Bachelorette) and her chosen man Roberto Martinez have lunch at the Newsroom Cafe in Los Angeles, then do some shopping at the Armani Exchange.

By the numbers

The Top 10 shows for the week of August 2-8.

- The Bachelorette, ABC, 11.74 million
- NFL Exhibition Football: Cincinnati vs. Dallas, NBC, 11.44 million
- The Bachelorette: After the Rose, ABC, 11.32 million
- America's Got Talent (Tuesday), NBC, 10.37 million
- America's Got Talent (Wednesday), NBC, 10.06 million
- NFL Pre-Game Show, NBC, 9.62 million
- 60 Minutes, CBS, 9.4 million
- NCIS, CBS, 8.95 million
- Wipeout (Tuesday), ABC, 8.91 million
- The Big Bang Theory, CBS, 8.52 million

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Homegrown films for TIFF

Canuck films bound for film fest include Montreal-set thriller and the return of Fubar's hoser headbangers

A Montreal-set thriller from Jay Baruchel and Scott Speedman, the sophomore effort by Quebec phenom Xavier Dolan and the return of Fubar's hoser headbangers are among the Canadian movies bound for the Toronto International Film Festival.

Organizers say the slate of homegrown fare includes new films from directors Denis Villeneuve, Bruce McDonald, Jacob Tierney and Louis Belanger, and performances from homegrown stars Molly Parker, Don McKellar, Jill Hennessy, Jason Jones, and the late Tracy Wright.

Organizers are touting a diverse mix of documentaries, dramas, thrillers, comedies, "and a record number of dysfunctional families."

They include Dolan's comedy Heartbeats, about two friends who pursue a mutual obsession; the Tierney thriller, Good Neighbours, featuring Baruchel as the resident of a strange apartment building in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grace neighbourhood; and Fubar 2, which opens the Midnight Madness section with Terry and Dean searching for wealth and more beer in the oil fields of Alberta.

The Toronto International Film Festival runs Sept. 9 through 19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Maestro recalls lean years

Rapper Wes Williams releases new self-help book ◗ 'My feelings got hurt a lot of the times'

Canadian rapper, actor and now author Wes Williams says he tapped into the darkest periods of his career when writing his new self-help book.

The 42-year-old — also known as Maestro — experienced unprecedented success and blazed a path for Canadian rappers in the late '80s and early '90s. But he says reliving the lean years that followed for his new book, Stick to Your Vision: How to Get Past the Hurdles and the Haters to Get Where You Want to Be, wasn't easy.

"I guess that's a part of being an author," Williams said during a promotional stop in Toronto, his hometown. "I gotta open up and talk about certain things that are a little uncomfortable to mention because, you know, you don't want to talk about having a wack audition, or people dissing your album. You don't really feel comfortable with that, because we're supposed to be strong and not show weakness and not show that things affect you.

"But I am affected by it. My feelings got hurt a lot of times along the way."

Birth of Maestro

In 1979, Wes Williams' father — a passionate music fan — brought home a record that changed his life: Sugarhill Gang's Rapper's Delight. He knew then he wanted to be a rapper and worked on his music throughout school.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Wes Williams, a.k.a. Maestro Fresh Wes, poses in Toronto Monday. The musician has written a new self-help book.

Published earlier this month, Stick to Your Vision blends memoir with a treatise on self-confidence and ambition. It's divided into three sections — expectation, operation and destination — and encourages readers to clearly set out their goals before pursuing them with purpose and persistence.

He also dispenses lessons on networking culled from his own career. While promoting the book, he practises what he preaches, taking pains to learn the name of each reporter, photographer and publicist with whom he comes into contact.

The Juno Award-winning musician and Gemini-nominated actor says the idea for the book originated back in the late '90s, but he began working on it in earnest back in 2008, shortly after marrying Calgary native Tamara Hendricks-Williams, who co-wrote the book.

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to Paris with my TD Points
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Kidder still has Superman ball gowns

Margot Kidder still has the ball gowns.

"(They're from) when I was being Margot Movie Star," she said with a chuckle in an interview yesterday, referencing her high-profile days as Lois Lane in the blockbuster Superman films.

"You went to premieres and you went to charity dos and galas and all that sort of thing," continued the 61-year-old actress, who was born in Yellowknife and now lives largely out of the spotlight in Montana.

"Thank God I don't have to do that anymore. It's so much work!"

Kidder mined her clothing memories as she prepared to star in the play Love, Loss, And What I Wore, in which a panel of female characters give monologues about outfits they've worn.

"(They're from) when I was being Margot Movie Star." MARGOT KIDDER

The play, which has been a hit off-Broadway, is adapted from the book by Ilene Beckerman and a collection of stories by screenwriting sisters Nora and Delia Ephron.

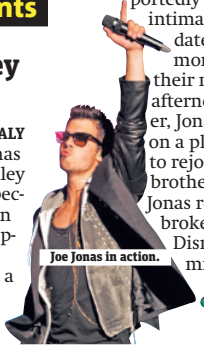
The Canadian production, which began last month at the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto and was recently extended to Oct. 2, has a rotating cast. The second cast, which takes over Thursday, includes Kidder, Wendy Crewson, Cynthia Dale, Linda Kash and Lauren Collins.

Kidder plays the main narrator, Gingy, who muses about how her mother made almost all of her clothing when she was a child and she desperately longed for a store-bought outfit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Talking points

Joe and Ashley a new item?

A MATCH MADE IN SQUEALY TWEEN HEAVEN. Joe Jonas and Twilight star Ashley Greene are feuling speculation that they're an item, according to Popsugar. Jonas recently stopped off in L.A. on a brief break from his summer tour and apparently spent much of his limited time with Greene, with whom he reportedly shared an intimate lunch date last month. After their most recent afternoon together, Jonas was back on a plane to Ohio to rejoin his brothers. Joe Jonas recently broke up with Disney star Demi Lovato.


Joe Jonas in action.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pals worry Jessie's man a 'freeloader'

While Jessica Simpson appears to be having a great time with new boyfriend Eric Johnson, friends are worried he's just a freeloader, according to In Touch. And the recently divorced Johnson's ex-wife, Keri Johnson, isn't helping matters, telling the magazine, "Eric is plain out of money. He was going to grad school because he didn't know what else to do, and then he just dropped out."

Simpson has had a string of failed romances, most famously with her ex-husband Nick Lachey, musician John Mayer and Dallas Cowboys player Tony Romo.

The pop star, whose music career has all but stalled, often comes across as needy and cloying in the media. METRO WORLD NEWS

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Wedding's off for Hayden and Rachel

GETTY IMAGES

The pretty pair calls it quits for good after 'taking a break' from their 18-month engagement in June

After announcing they were taking a break from each other two months ago, Rachel Bilson and Hayden Christensen are no longer planning on getting married, Bilson's rep confirms to People magazine. "Yes, the engagement is off," the rep says without giving further details of the breakup. Friends of the actress say, "It just wasn't working out," citing distance as one of the main factors.

Although the couple tried to keep their relationship on the down-low in an attempt to appear discreet, nasty tongues wagged in speculation that the coupling was all an elaborate publicity ruse set up to promote Bilson's flagging career and to protect Christensen from rumours of homosexuality.

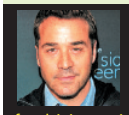
Bilson was previously involved with former O.C. co-star Adam Brody.

METRO WORLD NEWS

▶ They both independently realized neither was a good enough actor to continue faking their relationship.

Celebrity tweets

Joel McHale [@joelmchale] I still haven't seen Inception but Body of Lies came on HBO so I started rotating my tv every 2 minutes to c if I could save 15 bucks. Nope



Jeremy Piven [@jeremypiven] Pulled over for driving 82 in a 70, that's like being punished for spanking in an orgy.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Talking points

First comes baby, then comes marriage

YAWN. Now that she's expecting a child with Sam Cooper, Lily Allen is also planning a wedding, according to Look magazine. "Marriage has never been a big deal to them, but now their friends are saying they may well marry just before the baby is born, or very shortly afterward," a source says. "They are looking for a new house in the Cotswolds, somewhere near her dad's place, as it'll be more peaceful than raising a baby in London. Lily says she won't have a nanny — she wants to do everything herself."

METRO WORLD NEWS

I paid for a resort in paradise with TD Points (even the scuba lessons).

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Being a cad is charming as long as you play one on TV.

Kelsey debuts brand new blonde

With his divorce battle raging, Kelsey Grammer is reportedly "deeply in love" with a mystery blonde, according to Page Six. "He's pushing for a quickie divorce because things are moving quickly with his new girlfriend," a source says. "There is speculation that she is pregnant, but he wants to finalize the divorce before making any announcement." Grammer and the younger woman, who sources say is British and named Kate, were spotted holding hands in New York recently.

Grammer is best known for his roles on the long-running sitcom Cheers, where he played psychiatrist Frasier Crane, followed by a character-driven spinoff, Frasier, that ran for 11 consecutive seasons.

His soon-to-be ex wife, Camille Donatacci, is a former dancer and current spokesperson for Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Talking points

AI winner defends herself

ACCOUNTABILITY WASN'T ONE THE SONG GENRES SHE ACED. Former American Idol star Fantasia Barrino is disputing claims that she participated in a sex tape with a married man, Antwaun Cook, causing the breakup of his marriage. Barrino's manager says his client is "certain that she is not responsible for the deterioration of Cook's marriage," according to Us Weekly. "Fantasia will weather this storm with the dignity and grace that she has exemplified throughout a life in which she has repeatedly overcome obstacles and challenges."

Let's have a song about entitlement, Fantasia.

METRO WORLD NEWS

3 life

Top pick

Travel find this week:

1 New Hampshire: There are many ways to explore New Hampshire — by car, motorcoach, motorcycle, mountain bike, on foot, kayak and airplane. Why not add horseback riding to the mix. Check out visitnh.gov for further information on suggested places to enjoy a day of horseback riding and test your equestrian skills.

New routes added to Ontario Bike Train include the Muskoka region

FLICKRCC EUGENE REGIS

▶ Dunstanburgh Castle, a 600-year-old fortress built by Earl Thomas of Lancaster.

The Real Hogwarts

Tracking down Harry Potter's school and the other historic castles of northern England

DAVID PAUL
TRAVEL@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS

The boy wizard Harry Potter learned the basics of magic at one, the ghost of a headless nobleman haunts another and you can get married in a third.

We're talking castles here, the splendid and richly varied castles of Northumberland, England's northernmost county.

Rebellion, battles and bloodshed have been played out on Northumberland's soil for hundreds of years.

The days of warfare against the invading hordes of Scots, Vikings and endless others are thankfully long gone, but the legacy is a glorious network of castles, with secrets and tales for tourists to discover behind almost every stone.

In the market town of Alnwick you'll find a castle that may seem strangely familiar. It had a starring role in two of the Harry Potter movies as Hogwarts School and has also featured in TV comedy shows including Blackadder and the historical movie Elizabeth.

Alnwick Castle has been home to the Percys, the Earls and Dukes of Northumberland, since 1309 and the current Duke and Duchess still live there. Younger visitors get the chance to dress up as medieval knights, while older guests may prefer one of the regular Shakespeare performances staged in the castle grounds on summer evenings.

"There are secrets and tales for tourists to discover behind almost every stone."

Nine miles east of Alnwick, beside the North Sea, lie the eerie ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle. It's a 600-year-old fortress built by Earl Thomas of Lancaster, a cousin of King Edward II. Thomas was executed in 1322 for leading a rebellion against the King and it took his executioner 11 blows to chop off his head with an axe. Thomas' tortured ghost is said to haunt the ruins carrying his mutilated head in his arms.

If you miss seeing headless Thomas as you hike through the ruins, make sure you don't miss out on the fabulous crab soup and sandwiches served up at the Jolly Fisherman pub in the nearby village of Craster.

Those who like their castles with a touch of romance won't want to miss a visit to the hugely atmospheric Lindisfarne Castle.

It's an Elizabethan fort built in 1550. It is set on Holy Island, a rocky crag three miles off the coast of Northumberland that is only accessible twice a day when the North Sea is at low tide. Ignore the tide times at your peril as you'll have to face the embarrassment of being rescued by the lifeboat crew from the nearby village of Seahouses.

At low tide couples happy to splash out the £750 ($1,224) fee can get married in Lindisfarne Castle's beautiful barrel vaulted drawing room, known as the "Ship Room."

Metro lists the top three castles to visit on page 23.

For more information check out www.visit-northumberland.com

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Waterfront view

Venice is one of those rare destinations that really lives up to its billing Yes it's expensive and a bit touristy, but bite the bullet and enjoy all it has to offer

PAUL BALDWIN
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

SEE
The canals

Let's be honest, it's what you're here for. And while they can honk a bit in high summer, they don't let you down. You wonder how the Venetians ever pulled it off, but you'll go away genuinely marvelling.

HEAR
The gondoliers

A little bit cheesy these days, but what the heck, you haven't come to Venice to be cool. Also be prepared to get fleeced – it will cost you upwards of €80 ($108) so get over yourself and enjoy the experience.

EAT
Ice-cream

The Italians take their ice-cream a bit seriously, but that doesn't mean it is universally good. So shop around. Our tip would be Gelateria Nico on the Waterfront. Oh, and try ice-cream for breakfast, you'll never look back!

DRINK
Bellinis

At Harry's Bar, where else? It's expensive, it can sometimes be a bit soul-less too, but it's has the Hemmingway seal of approval and that's good enough for us. Luckily just around the corner there are many other local bars where you can drown your sorrows after getting the bill.

WEAR
Dolce & Gabbana

Or Armani at a pinch. The Venetians are a fiercely fashionable bunch so make sure you know what you're doing. Failing that the standard-issue tourist kit of jeans, band T-shirt and some kind of headwear – it can get fiercely hot.

DO
A canal tour

There are many walking/canal tours and though they feel touristy they are a great way of packing the city into one day and combining Rialto Bridge with the Doges Palace and St Marks Square. viator.com

DON'T
Think you'll do it on the cheap

Venice is expensive – period. Coffee is €5 and up, gondolas can leave you €150 ($203) out of pocket, and a decent meal will cost €80 ($108). If you want cheap, look elsewhere.

FLICKRCC BRATHA

▶ Blue lagoon: Bite the tourist bullet and don't miss a gondola ride.

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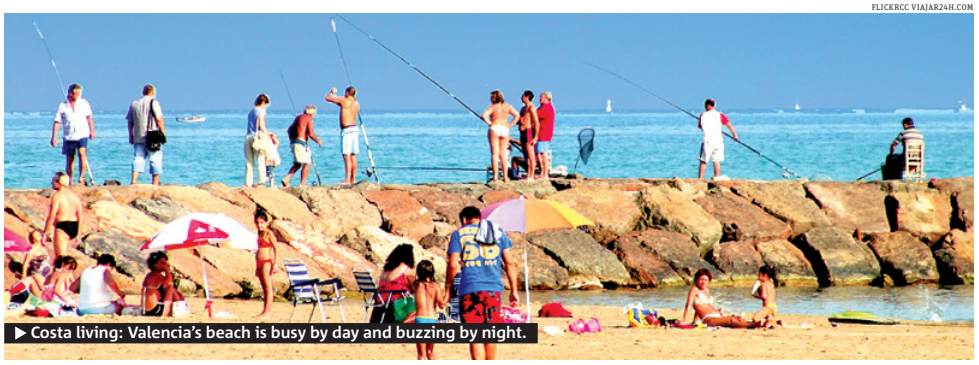

▶ Costa living: Valencia's beach is busy by day and buzzing by night.

Head to Valencia: Costa del fun!

Valencia is one of Spain's hidden gems. As funky and metropolitan as Barcelona but with a beach vibe that feels more like Ibiza

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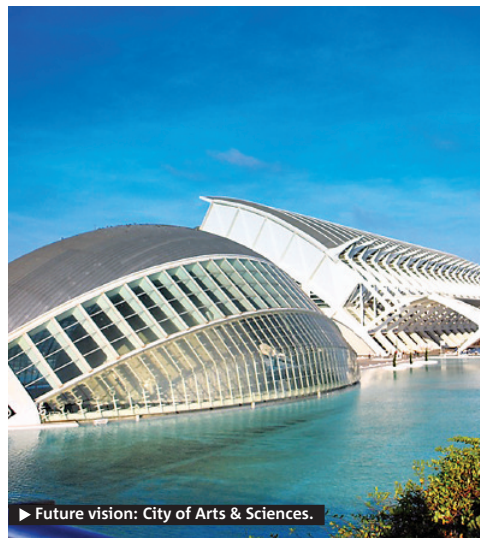
METRO WORLD NEWS

Why go now?
Because summer on Playa de Malvarrosa rocks. Valencia's most famous beach is a mix of the beautiful and the wasted, hedonism and carpe diem. And the city ain't bad either. It's stylish and chic, sort of like Barcelona only more intimate and laid back. Just keep away from Benidorm.

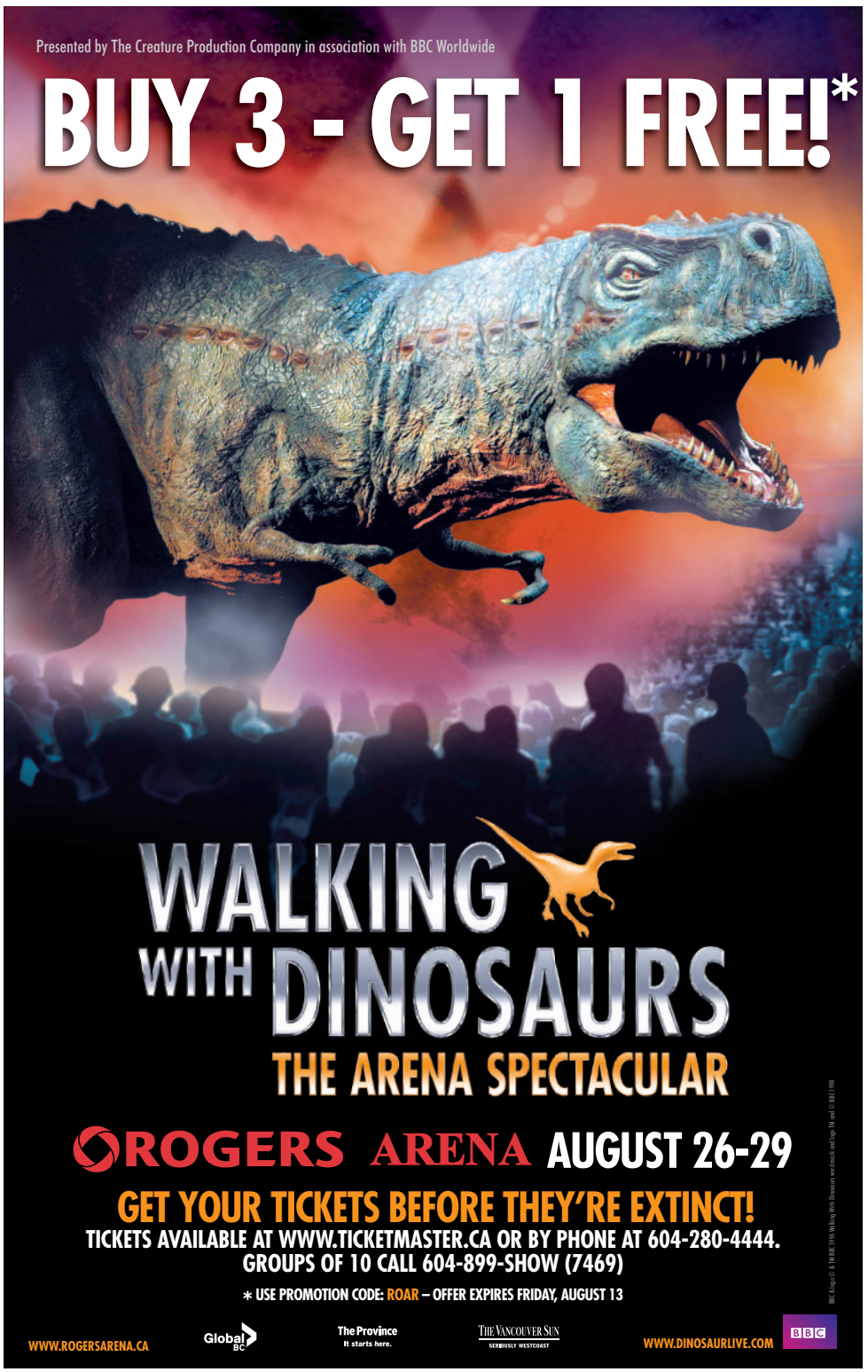
It's my first time – what should I do?
Well, the beach obviously. But after that go to the The City of Arts and Sciences, a massive development of five areas in the dry river bed of the now diverted River Turia. The "city" is made up El Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia — Opera house and performing arts centre; L'Hemisfèric — Imax Cinema, Planetarium and Laserium; L'Umbracle — Walkway/Garden; El Museu de les Ciències Príncipe Felipe — Science museum; L'Oceanogràfic — Open-air oceanographic park. And it's all beautiful. Great at night, too.

I've been there before – what should I see this time?
Las Fallas. From March 15 to March 19, Valencia celebrates the feast of St Joseph in spectacular style. More advanced pyrotechnics than you can shake a stick at (every day at 2 p.m.), bonfires every where you look, giant paper mache figures paraded through the streets. Oh, and drink is taken. Not for the faint-hearted but this is the mother of all fiestas.

Where's the best shopping?
No contest — Mercado Central on the Plaza del Mercado in the heart of the city. This 1920s beauty stands across the street from La Lonja, the silk exchange that dates from 1482 and is one of the most splendid examples of secular Gothic architecture in Spain. A huge, airy building, with light streaming through the stained glass and with huge blowsy Valencian women fighting over the bargain sausages.



▶ Future vision: City of Arts & Sciences.



Castles to visit

Northumberland is home to some of the best palaces

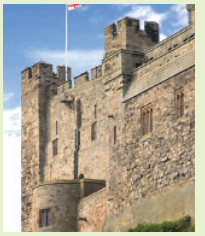
MOST HAUNTED
Chillingham Castle

Reputed to be the most haunted castle in England, the spooks include the "Blue Boy," whose screams once terrified guests. The body of a boy was eventually found hidden inside one of the castle walls, his fingers worn down from trying to scratch his way through the stone. The castle dungeon held men whose arms and legs were broken before they were thrown 20 feet into a cell.

FLICKR CC GLEN BOWMAN

MOST FUN FOR A FAMILY
Alnwick Castle

No child is going to want to miss a visit to Hogwarts. But Harry Potter aside, youngsters who go to Alnwick also get to dress up as medieval knights or princesses and take on the Dragon's Quest — a scary but fun learning experience and tour of the castle's treasures. Nearby is the Alnwick Gardens, acres of fascinating plants, water sculptures and one of the world's largest tree houses.



MOST IMPRESSIVE
Bamburgh Castle

An iconic structure dominating Northumberland's shoreline from a 45m rock plateau. Battles have been won and lost on this site since the first century BC. The Vikings destroyed one version of the castle, the Normans built another, and the current version is largely the work of the Victorians. Dramatic sea views out to the Farne Islands, it overlooks a lovely beach. DAVID PAUL

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B.C.'s foodie paradise

Granville Island market is a favoured local hangout and must-see for tourists Taste buds are tempted with an array of gastronomic delights

Visitors to Vancouver's famed Granville Island public market wouldn't be alone in imagining the tune Food Glorious Food being piped into the place that's a favourite hangout for locals and apparently a must-see destination for tourists.

Maybe it's the array of colourful fruits and vegetables beckoning people at stall after stall or the mouth-watering green olive bread vying for attention with the apple focaccia over here and the salmon and oysters seemingly eyeing eaters over there.

Anyone overcome with a desire to click their heels and go for the nearest gastronomic delight would be in good company at this foodies' paradise.

"We're investigating our lunch options and, of course, as typical, we've already picked out our desserts," says Ted Lemmond of Portland, Ore., a first-time visitor to Vancouver, along with his wife and two kids. "It's fresh and wonderful," he says, surveying the eats as his son takes a few seconds to decide on what kind of sushi to order.

The public market is part of the bustling Granville Island scene that includes water views of False Creek, theatres, North America's largest free water park for the kids, cafes, a brewery, artists selling their wares and crowd-drawing free performers.

Granville Island spokesman Scott Fraser says the island was recognized as the best neighbourhood in North America in 2005 by the New York-based non-profit organization Project for Public Spaces.

Besides the indoor public market, there's an outdoor farmers market featuring fresh produce from local fields. This year it runs until Oct. 21.

The Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts is located at the entrance to the island, underneath the Granville Street Bridge, and is the only private cooking school in Canada where would-be chefs operate a restaurant and bake shop.

But back to the food at the public market.

At the Oyama Sausage Company, co-owner Christine van der Lieck is tending to a long lineup of customers who have 30 varieties to choose from.

There's everything from smoked Mennonite bratwurst and spicy bison to Italian salamis such as finocchiona made with wild fennel to give it a kick and a mild one concocted from wild B.C. honey and raspberry syrup.

The creations are the handiwork of van der Lieck's husband John, a fifth-generation master sausage maker trained in Germany. Sausage recipes are from all over Europe, including the Ukraine, France, Portugal and Hungary as well as Colombia, Ecuador and Chile, and fill the cases at this establishment that's been a fixture at the market for a decade.

"Canadians are very experimental; they love to try things," van der Lieck says, adding dry and smoked sausages travel well.

David Esteban of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., returns to Granville Island every time he visits Vancouver.

"There isn't anything even remotely like this in Poughkeepsie," Esteban says with a laugh.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶Storm Luck displays a fresh coho salmon for sale at The Salmon Shop at the Granville Island Public Market.

Pacific delicacies

At the Salmon Shop, one of three seafood stores at the Granville Island market, Storm Luck seems right at home with the wild B.C. salmon, octopus, clams, mussels and other delicacies from the Pacific Ocean.

Luck says salmon is a huge draw for tourists and is packed for travel to Europe and the United States. "We pack it for 24 to 36 hours," he says, proudly holding up a coho for a photo. "A lot of people travelling to Asia will take the frozen sockeye."

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Good stuff grilled cheese

Ingredients :
- 2 oz. aged light cheddar cheese, thinly sliced
- 1 oz. light mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
- 4 slices plum tomato
- 4 slices whole wheat bread

With a new school year approaching, extracurricular activities, homework and play dates, making a healthy lunch or dinner can seem like a big challenge. However, Rose Reisman, a health and wellness consultant and national spokesperson for Breakfast for Learning, shares this grilled cheese recipe that is quick, easy and nutritious.

"Opting for flavourful unprocessed cheeses and cooking spray instead of butter or oil, gives the classic kid's recipe a healthy boost," says Rose. "Add carrot sticks and a glass of milk for a complete and nutritious meal."

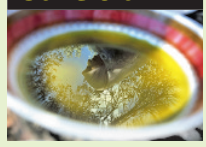
Preparation:

1 Divide the cheddar and mozzarella between 2 slices of bread. Top with the sliced tomatoes. Cover with the remaining 2 slices of bread. Lightly coat both sides of each sandwich with cooking spray.

2 Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray and place over medium heat. Grill the sandwiches for about 4 minutes per side, being careful not to burn them.

NEWS CANADA

Superfood: Olive oil



A staple of the Mediterranean diet, the benefits of olive oil far outweigh the negative associations normally linked to fatty foods. Composed mainly of healthy 'monosaturated fats', diets where olive oil is used as the main source of fat tend to be linked to lower rates of heart disease, diabetes, asthma and colon cancer. Extra virgin olive oil is derived from the first pressing of the olive and the end result is an oil with high levels of anti oxidants.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

ISTOCK

▶ Have you made one too many cringe-worthy mistakes at work? Perhaps you should give Stop Effing Yourself: A Survivor's Guide to Life's Biggest Screw-ups a read.

Want to stop 'Effing' up?

A new book tells up to Stop Effing Yourself: A Survivor's Guide to Life's Biggest Screw-ups Metro talked to author and neurologist Dr. Sean Kenniff

NATALIE GAVILANES
METRO WORLD NEWS

Q: How did you come up with the title "Stop Effing Yourself"?
A: (Laughs) Well, I myself was a self-saboteur. I ruined a lot of opportunities for myself, so I decided to delve into the psychology of someone who self-sabotages and realized that it was something that was actually common and complex for a lot of people.

Q: How would you characterize a self-saboteur?
A: Everyone has a person who was "the one who got away" and sometimes (the self-sabotaging that led to that is) small, but other times it's a big problem. And the people who self-sabotage know it. A self-saboteur would live paycheque to paycheque — not really have a budget. They wouldn't be satisfied with their job, they would be wasting time at work. Basically, if you count the number of times that you say "Why did I do that?" and say it more often than you'd like, then you probably are a self-saboteur.

Q: How do you make sure you don't self-sabotage when having drinks with the boss?
A: Never bring up politics or religion. Never discuss your past and never ever talk badly about anyone. Definitely don't drink too much. Basically, all the Christmas party rules apply here.

News in brief

College-bound student trend

EDUCATION In a new survey, 54 per cent of responding college-bound high school students ranked academic-related information as the most valuable on a college website, with 30 per cent stating that cost-related content was the most valuable to them.
ACADEMICA.CA

$2M bequest for McMaster

EDUCATION McMaster University has received a $2-million bequest to enhance and build an elite track and field program according to McMaster Daily News. The donation will be used to fund coaching, training programs, scholarships, tutoring, recruiting, and travel to special competitions. McMaster president Patrick Deane says the bequest is from the late philanthropist Mona Campbell.
ACADEMICA.CA

Cambrian centre props sustainability

EDUCATION Last week, Sudbury's Cambrian College held a groundbreaking ceremony for its Xstrata Nickel Sustainable Energy Centre. The facility will provide opportunities for students, faculty and local community to acquire the skills and practical experience to become leaders in the green-collar economy.
CAMBRIAN NEWS RELEASE

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From home to school

It's almost time for soon-to-be college and university freshman to make their first move

ISTOCK

▶ Moving off to college can be an exciting time, but there are things that must be taken care of beforehand.

When your child moves away from home for college or university, there are important changes and responsibilities to consider. Along with the emotional stress of having your young graduate leave home, you also need to consider what the move means for your finances and insurance policies.

Being informed about your insurance coverage is crucial for your child's protection and wellbeing. While many policies extend parents' coverage to kids in university, other policies encourage college students to purchase their own insurance.

"Parents need to know whether their insurance extends to their children when they are buying a car or moving into an apartment or residence," says Wayne Ross, insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "You could find yourself facing a financially-stressful situation that could easily have been avoided."

For a stress-free transition, Ross offers the following helpful tips:

Scope out apartments:

Living off-campus can help students develop a sense of independence and save some money. However, consider buying a tenant policy in your child's name so their personal property is protected.

Check your car insurance:

Whether your child takes his or her car to university or intends to drive on visits home, call your insurance company to check what your policy includes.

Keep track of their finances:

University life goes hand-in-hand with expensive purchases like computers and other electronics. Stick to a budget, keep track of your purchases and verify what your insurance covers. NEWS CANADA

More online

Following these tips can help you breathe a little easier during this time of transition. More information is available from your insurance broker or online at avivacanada.com.

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News in brief

UFV filled to capacity

EDUCATION Projections indicate that the University of the Fraser Valley will operate at up to 108 per cent of its government-set target for the coming school year. The institution's provost and vice-president academic notes that admitting students beyond government-funded capacity is not a good situation since the university does not receive extra funding from the B.C. government for critical student services such as library resources and counselling. Aside from the problem of providing critical learning support to extra students, the VP says UFV will have to become more selective as student lineups grow. Enrolment at the university has exceeded government-funded targets for more than a decade.
ACADEMICA.CA

Keeping your kids active can help them learn

Does your child love to rock out to music or enjoy a competitive game of kickball with the neighbourhood children? Getting and keeping children moving has more than just physical benefits, it also stimulates children's most vital organs … their brains.

Like adults, children need regular exercise. Experts recommend children get at least an hour of physical activity every day. Regular exercise not only strengthens the body, but it lowers stress levels, which can help children stay focused in school.

According to a recent study funded by the National Institutes of Health, children who play vigorously for 20 to 40 minutes a day are also better able to organize schoolwork, complete class projects and learn mathematics. The link between learning and movement demonstrates how important it is for children to exercise daily.

So how you do get your children's blood pumping to the brain in the age of video games, computers and cell phones? Here are a few tips from Kumon:

Encourage your children to play games that include critical thinking as well as physical activity. Games like hide-and-seek require strategic thought, observation and lots of running. Try playing hopscotch, kickball, jump rope or freeze tag with your children.

NEWS CANADA

Examples

- **Set an example** by being active with your children. Ask them questions about their games, and encourage them to use their imaginations while having fun. When the weather is nice, go on nature hikes in a nearby park or forest preserve. If you live in the city, create a list of items that can be collected and go on a scavenger hunt to find items on your list within a certain period. To keep kids active and learn new skills, consider signing up for a class together through a community centre or local program. Most children love it when their parents get in on the action.

News in brief

U.S. grants accreditation to B.C.-based Quest U

EDUCATION Recently, Quest University, a B.C.-based non-profit liberal arts and science institution, was awarded full accreditation by the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE), an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. In March, the AALE evaluation team spent a week at the institution to carry out a site evaluation. According to the award letter, the evaluation team's report "commended the excellence of your instructors and the high quality of your students who were unusually engaged, articulate and thoughtful."

METRO

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Baking and Pastry Arts Wednesday, Aug. 18, 10:30 a.m. – room 216	Downtown
Esthetics and Hair Design Wednesday, Aug. 18, 4:30 p.m. – room 201	Downtown
English for Health Sciences Thursday, Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m. – room 1212	Broadway
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4 sports

Up and down

Roger Federer
The Swiss master won his first competitive match since Wimbledon, beating Argentine challenger Juan Ignacio Chela at the Rogers Cup.

Andy Roddick
The eighth-seeded American withdrew from the Rogers Cup, citing undisclosed illness.

Scan code for more sports

Could Luongo deal be next?

Canucks contract one of four under investigation by NHL Bruins say Savard deal has been under scrutiny since it was signed last year

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Roberto Luongo's contract is one of four long-term deals under investigation by the NHL — and it could be withdrawn.

The National Hockey League's investigation of four registered contracts was in full force before arbitrator Richard Bloch ruled in favour of the league's decision to reject Ilya Kovalchuk's 17-year deal with New Jersey.

The Boston Bruins released a statement yesterday saying the league has been examining Marc Savard's $28-million US, seven-year extension since it was signed on Dec. 1.

"The league informed us upon their registration of the contract ... that they would be investigating the circumstances surrounding this contract," Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli said in a release. "From that point on, they commenced their investigation and it has been ongoing since then. On August 4, I met with two league-appointed lawyers as part of the investigation.

"We will continue to co-operate with the league in any future investigative proceedings if necessary."

Savard's deal was one of four mentioned in Bloch's ruling Monday that could be struck down by the NHL. The others belong to Vancouver Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo, Philadelphia Flyers defenceman Chris Pronger and Chicago Blackhawks winger Marian Hossa.

All four long-term deals will take the players into their 40s and feature salaries which drop sharply in the later years of the agreement, reducing the overall salary cap hit.

In siding with the NHL on its decision not to approve Kovalchuk's deal because it circumvented the cap, Bloch mentioned the contracts belonging to Savard, Luongo, Pronger and Hossa.

"While the contracts have, in fact, been registered, their structure has not escaped league notice: those (contracts) are being investigated currently with at least the possibility of a subsequent withdrawal of the registration," Bloch wrote.

Meanwhile, Devils general manager Lou Lamoriello said the team will continue working to re-sign Kovalchuk.

"We want Ilya to be a Devil," Lamoriello said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press yesterday. "We will do everything possible to achieve that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lions part ways with struggling Armstrong

The struggling B.C. Lions released veteran wide receiver Derick Armstrong yesterday, a move the team hopes will help pull it out of a five-game losing skid. Armstrong, 31, whom the Lions signed as a free agent in the off-season, will be replaced by Darius Passmore for B.C.'s game Thursday against the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

"We felt we needed to go forward and improve that position," said Lions head coach and general manager Wally Buono. "By making a change it gives us that opportunity."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

48 Armstrong had only four catches for 48 yards in the Lions last two games, losses to Edmonton and Calgary.

MLS loans phenom to Whitecaps

Forward Omar Salgado has signed with Major League Soccer and was loaned for three months to the Vancouver Whitecaps of the U.S. Soccer Federation Division 2.

The 16-year-old from El Paso, Texas, will go into the 2011 MLS SuperDraft. He spent one and a half years with Chivas Guadalajara before signing with MLS, scoring seven goals in 10 games with the reserves.

Salgado trained with the Mexican Under-20 team in March and April, then switched and played for the United States at the Milk Cup in Northern Ireland. On July 26, he scored in a 1-0 victory over China.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FREE PREVIEW: AUGUST 13-22

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JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO CANADA

▶ Comfort and athleticism go hand in hand in the 2011 Kia Sportage.

Kia's Sportage SUV shows some muscle

This third-generation utility vehicle not only toughens up but shows a little more class ◐ Roomy interiors, impressive handling add more value

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

For two generations, the Kia Sportage was a compact SUV with a built-in connection to the average Canadian shopper after ruggedness, flexibility and a good overall deal.

Now entering its third generation, the 2011 model is hitting dealer lots with even more of the sensible, adventurous and wholesome stuff that made its predecessors a hit.

For its latest iteration, the German-designed, Korean-built Sportage has been designed for higher-than-ever levels of style and value, and the ability to tackle most any driving our continent's craggy North might throw its way.

I recently spent two days and several hundred kilometres driving the now-on-sale 2011 Kia Sportage from Whitehorse to Skagway, Alaska, and back. The latest Sportage is no longer friendly and cartoony-looking, but rather more athletic, prominent and aggressive than the former.

Inside, drivers are treated to an upscale environment with easy-to-use controls and adequate at-hand storage. Rear-seat passengers get plenty of room in virtually every direction, even if they're grown-ups, and folding seats and a big, easily-accessible cargo hold help to maximize utility and flexibility.

Sportage's interior is assembled as nicely as any of its Japanese competition–though trim materials won't be blowing any socks off, and a little more colour could go a long way to brighten up the mainly dark scenery.

Sportage's ride and handling should impress. Even on undulating or poorly-maintained highways, I found the suspension delivered a near-perfect blend of drama-free tautness and planted comfort.

The specs

2011 Kia Sportage

- **VEHICLE TYPE** SUV
- **PRICE** from $21,995
- **ENGINE** 2.4L four-cylinder; 176 hp
- **FUEL ECONOMY** 10/6.9 L/100 km, city/highway
- **MADE FOR CANADA FEATURES** Sportage is available with a Canadian-designed AWD system for tackling extra-slippery conditions; Kia's automatic climate control system lets each front passenger select their desired temperature

5 drive

News in brief

1 Subaru Canada has launched a mobile version of its website for smartphone users. To use the site, users should enter subaru.ca in the "search" window of the mobile device browser.
METRO

2 Ten Toyota Venzas are up for grabs in Toyota's Test Drive To Win. The contest runs from now until Aug. 31 at Toyota dealerships across Canada.
METRO

SMELLS LIKE GREEN SPIRIT

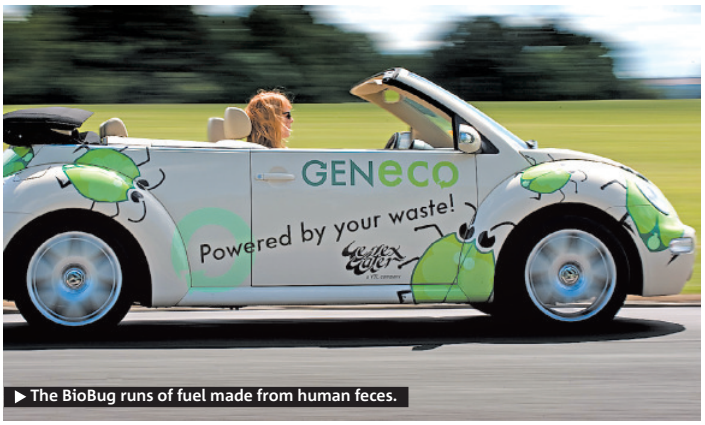
When it comes to alternative energy sources for transportation, electricity seems to be the rising star, at least for the moment.

But in Britain this month, a stock VW Beetle was showcased, one that was happily running around on a fuel sourced from human poo poo…

The firm, GENeco, who concocted the fuel, noted that previously this type of methane "biogas" oozing from the sewage of a human waste treatment plant wasn't "clean enough" to run properly in a normal vehicle. GENeco figured out a way to make it work (using micro-bugs, hence the choice of the "Bug" test vehicle), and now claims that this fuel could be a viable way of powering cars in the future.

Well, whether this thing flies, or ends up back from where it came, the toilet, the "Poo Bug" is nonetheless an excellent reminder that the internal combustion engine can burn lots of different "gases," and that many of these gases are plentiful and clean.

Here then, is a brief snapshot of alternative gases that are working their way into our future.



▶ The BioBug runs of fuel made from human feces.

Clean Petroleum Diesel
Modern turbo-diesel engines running on the new "low sulphur" diesel fuel can be 30 per cent more fuel efficient than comparably powered gas engines. While they are also cleaner in some regards, they require more elaborate emission systems. Another downside: North American refineries are currently set up to produce way more gasoline than diesel for any given barrel of oil.

Biodiesel
Diesel can also be made from animal fat and/or vegetable oil. Not only is this the best smelling fuel on the planet, it contains no sulphur, so is very clean. Downsides: Contains less energy than petroleum diesel; Limited supply, though research is being done to see if large amounts can be sourced from algae.

Synthetic Diesel
We can turn natural gas, methanol or coal in a diesel-like fuel? But do we want to? North America has lots of those three source elements, but we get little or no "net environmental" gain by converting them over to synthetic diesel.

Ethanol
When corn-based ethanol is blended with gasoline, at an 85:15 ratio, you get a fuel called E85. It's renewable and powerful. And clean too, until you consider all the energy and emissions entailed with producing and distilling corn. It's more efficient and cleaner to make ethanol from sugar cane or algae or certain grasses or waste plant material. At this point, more discussion than production.

Hydrogen
You can make an internal combustion engine run on hydrogen. But currently most hydrogen is sourced from natural gas. Why not just use natural gas? If you make hydrogen by extracting it from water, you need lots of electricity. Hydrogen is also a lot harder to store and to move around the country than CNG.

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW 2010 SUBARU FORESTER SPORTTECH
MORE TOYS, MORE FEATURES, MORE POSSIBILITIES

Value-added features to stay connected:
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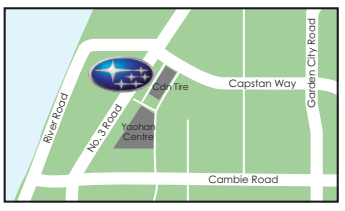
- iPod®/USB audio integration with text display
- Bluetooth® hands-free system
- 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels
- Sport-tech badge

Lease and finance rates as low as
1.9%**



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*Model shown is a 2010 Forester Sport Tech with MSRP of $31,320.00 including freight & PDI $1525.00. **1.9% Lease and Finance APR valid on new 2010 Forester Sport Tech models for 24 month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Dealers may sell for less. **/† Offers valid until June, 30, 2010. See Richmond Subaru for details.

Rocking 'n' rolling down the highway

If you care about thumping bass and clear tones, then these audio technologies will be music to your ears THX, Dynaudio make the cut

ISTOCK PHOTO

There are plenty of in-car options for audiophiles.

Music on the go

Drivers now have more ways than ever to stay connected to their tunes. Check out the following features on your next ride, and plan to leave that bulky CD case at home.

- **BLUETOOTH STREAMING AUDIO** Wirelessly plays audio from your MP3 player or cellular phone on the vehicles stereo in high-quality after a quick pairing procedure.
- **USB PORT** Makes it easy to transfer your home audio collection to your car via a thumb-drive or USB key.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

For most drivers, their vehicle is the only place they can take in their favourite music uninterrupted and at full-volume, and automakers are offering audiophiles more premium listening choices than ever. New car shopping? Here's a look at three exceptional high-performance stereo systems you may find available in your next ride. Be sure to bring your iPod or favourite CD along for the test-drive.

THX

Used in Lincoln's luxury models, the THX brand was initially started by maverick filmmaker George Lucas as an effort to bring top-notch audio to movie theatres.

The company has since become a big name in home audio, and they've also teamed up with Lincoln to create in-car stereo systems with some serious firepower.

Lincoln shoppers can opt for a THX II Certified 5.1 Surround Sound system in their new ride, where they'll benefit from discrete 5.1 surround sound playback of DVD-Audio and even DVD movies.

Mark Levinson

Available in Lexus's premium luxury models, the Mark Levinson stereo system builds on over 30 years of developing high-fidelity audio systems without money as a constraint. Lexus now offers several Mark Levinson stereo systems across their product range. These include the 'Reference' surround system, which intends to be the best stereo available in its vehicle class, period.

Dynaudio

Found in machines from Volvo, Volkswagen and even Bugatti, Dynaudio stereo systems offer a tremendous combination of power, punch and clarity. Specifically tailored to each application, Dynaudio's systems are designed in parallel with the vehicle they're intended for.

The redesigned 2011 Nissan Rogue.

Rogue re-invented with upgrades galore

Nissan unveiled the redesigned 2011 Nissan Rogue crossover SUV recently at the 23rd Annual International Z Car Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

The popular Rogue gets an upgraded look inside and out including exterior, interior, comfort and convenience, and audio and entertainment system enhancements.

Model names and options are also revised, keeping Rogue fresh and exciting for its active lifestyle buyers.

The 2011 Rogue is now offered in three trim levels — S, SV and SL (SL available in AWD only).

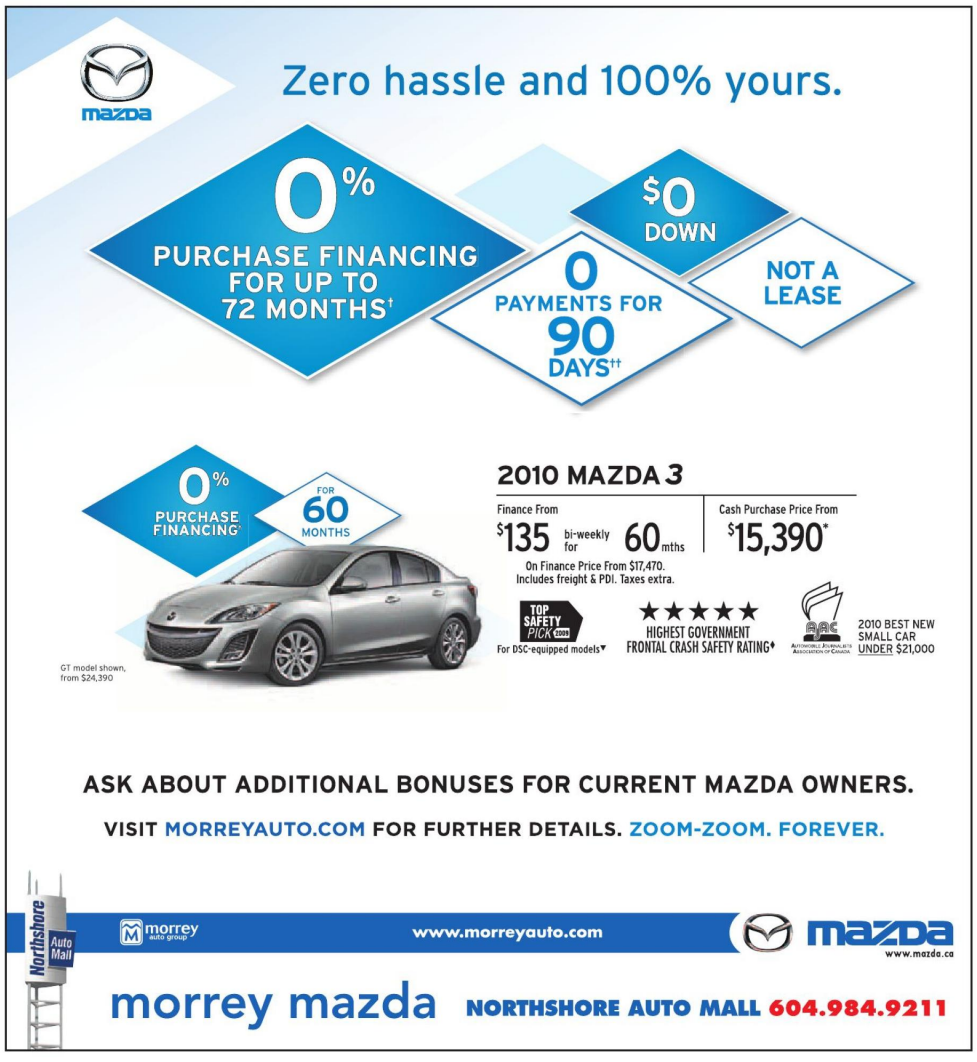
Rogue is scheduled to go on sale at Nissan dealers nationwide this September.

Among the many enhancements for the fourth year of Rogue production is a redesigned exterior featuring a new front fascia and grille, front chin spoiler, rear spoilers, new chrome side door guard molding trim accents, new front and rear tire deflectors and a new chrome license plate finisher.

Also added for 2011 are available 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, new lower rolling resistance tires (available with the 17-inch aluminum-alloy wheels) and a new underbody cover.

The Rogue offers a standard 170-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine, Nissan's advanced Xtronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission), Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) and 4-wheel disc brakes with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS).

Rogue S and Rogue SV are available with an intuitive All-Wheel Drive system, which is standard on the new Rogue SL.



Into the great wide open

If you are going off the beaten path, Jeep TJ's a worthy companion
Many loyal followers of model

▶ A pre-owned Jeep TJ can be your ticket to a big outdoor adventure this summer.

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The Jeep brand virtually owns the competitive landscape where toughness and capability on the road less travelled are concerned. By offering affordable capable 4x4 models like the TJ, the brand has earned one of the most enviable followings of loyal owners in the industry.

The last-generation Jeep TJ was on sale from 1997 through 2005 model years, and offered up two doors, two rows of seating and standard four-wheel drive. It's not exactly a family hauler, but did offer plenty of fun for mom, dad and two kids as needed. Add in the removable roof and proven off-road prowess, and it's no wonder TJ owners say it's the most four-wheeled fun possible for the price.

Power came from a 2.5 litre four-cylinder engine with 110 to 120 horsepower, as well as a 2.4 litre unit from 2003 and on. Jeep's famous four-litre straight-six engine was on board optionally, offering 190 horsepower and virtually bulletproof reliability.

Like its ride, TJ's powerplants are far from pinnacles of refinement — but they're known to be highly effective and tough as nails.

The specs

- **MODEL** 1997-2005 Jeep TJ
- **VEHICLE TYPE** 4X4
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $4,000 to $14,000

What Owners Like

As expected, the TJ's most bragged-about attribute is its off-road ability, and the confident, all-terrain capability of its 4x4 system. Styling, fun factor and overall value are also highly rated, too.

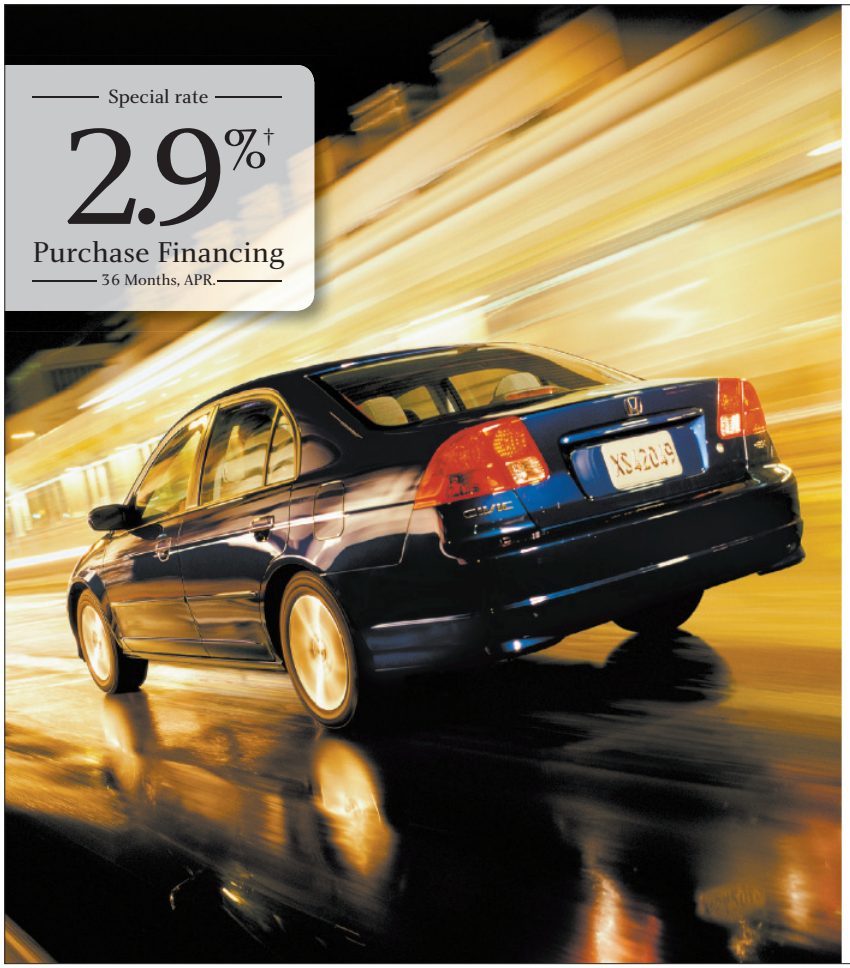
What Owners Hate

Many TJ owners wish for better fuel mileage, a smoother ride and more interior space, especially in the difficult-to-access rear seats.

Common issues

Exhaust manifolds on the straight-six engine could crack, causing a noisy exhaust leak. Additionally, broken bolts on said manifold could make removal and replacement more difficult.

Check the PCV valve for proper operation, too. If it's clogged or broken, it could cause the engine to burn oil. Thankfully, it's a simple and cheap part to replace.



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CANADA'S **hottest** **model** **event**

2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown.§

HOT MODELS WAIT FOR NO ONE.

2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

CANADA'S BEST SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS
CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

PURCHASE FOR
$21,480•

INCLUDES $6,500 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

PLUS GET **0%†** PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

OR CHOOSE

$130 BI-WEEKLY @ A VARIABLE PRIME RATE OF **2.75%±** FOR 84 MONTHS

2010 Dodge Journey SXT shown.§

2010 DODGE JOURNEY SE

CANADA'S #1 SELLING CROSSOVER^

PURCHASE FOR
$19,980•

INCLUDES $1,250 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

PLUS GET **0%†** PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

OR CHOOSE

$121 BI-WEEKLY @ A VARIABLE PRIME RATE OF **2.75%±** FOR 84 MONTHS

2010 Jeep Patriot Limited shown.§

2010 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT

PURCHASE FOR
$14,980•

INCLUDES $3,000 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

PLUS GET **0%†** PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

OR CHOOSE

$90 BI-WEEKLY @ A VARIABLE PRIME RATE OF **2.75%±** FOR 84 MONTHS

CASH DISCOUNTS OF UP TO $6,500

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DODGE Caravan Kids

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

Wise customers read the fine print: • ˆ † ± § Canada's Hottest Model Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between July 21, 2010 and August 3, 2010 from participating dealers. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealer for complete details and conditions. •$21,480 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+C19) only and includes $6,500 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F+C1E) only and includes $3,000 Consumer Cash Discount. $14,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Jeep Patriot Sport (25D) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and GMAC on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Examples: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+C19)/2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F+C1E)/2010 Jeep Patriot (25D) with a Purchase Price of $21,480/$19,980/$14,980 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $596.66/$555.00/$416.11; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $21,480/$19,980/$14,980. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ±Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services and Royal Bank of Canada. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84 month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD and RBC Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer is not open to residents of Quebec. TD offer is not open to residents of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealer for complete details. §2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $27,695. 2010 Dodge Journey SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $25,945. 2010 Jeep Patriot Limited shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $25,195. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ^Based on January through December 2009 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. SIRIUS and the dog are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

▶ The Around View Monitor is available on select Infiniti models, including the EX35.

Bird's-eye view at wheel

Rearview cams are so yesterday Infiniti's Around View Monitor takes a big stride in helping you park better in those tight spots

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

When you're trying to manoeuvre your vehicle into a tight space, visibility is everything — but it isn't always easy to see everything around you when you're sitting inside a tall SUV.

Rearview cameras help, but Infiniti takes it a step beyond with its Around View Monitor.

The system, which provides several images including a bird's-eye view, is available on the EX35, FX35, FX50 and QX56. It was designed by Sony and uses that company's software to integrate the pictures taken by cameras on the outside of the vehicle into the overall "top-down" view.

"Instead of just having a rearview camera behind you, there are four cameras: one in each mirror, one at the front in the grille, and one at the rear," says Ian Forsyth, director of corporate planning for Nissan Canada.

"The images are integrated into a picture of your vehicle as if you were standing above it."

The four super-wide-angle cameras enable the driver to "see" down the entire length of the vehicle, and their high resolution provides a clear colour picture. The range is about three metres to the front and rear, and about one metre on each side. The system works at speeds of up to about 10 km/h, and includes parking distance sensors that warn if the driver is getting too close to an object, such as a pole or another car.

While rearview cameras have been around for a while, the ability to provide multiple views allows drivers to customize the screen to see specific areas. The driver can choose the bird's-eye, front or rear, or a view of the passenger side. As with many rearview cameras, the Infiniti system includes an overlay of the vehicle's path, which assists when backing into a parking space. "If you turn the wheel, it will give you a projection of where the vehicle is going to go," Forsyth says. By customizing the screen to show both the rear view with vehicle path, and the bird's-eye, the driver has a clear indication of the parking space and the best way to centre the vehicle in it.

SUV/CUV only

▶ Infiniti currently puts the Around View Monitor only in SUVs and crossovers, not its cars, because of its advantages with the higher seating position and longer cabins in these larger and taller vehicles.

Mazda2 hits Canada with Facebook game

How do you bring a new automotive nameplate to a generation of digital natives that is connected, and lives and buys like no other?

You do it in a smart, new, engaging way and enable consumers to author their own brand experience.

Mazda North American Operations (MNAO) recently launched the 2011 Mazda2 in North America with a branded social game on Facebook.

Called DriverVille and created by Doner, the game showcases the Mazda2, positioned as Zoom-Zoom Concentrated: compact and efficient, yet packed with style and substance.

Built around the Zoom-Zoom Concentrated theme, DriverVille puts consumers in a virtual world to learn about and compete with the eco-friendly, fun-to-drive, five-door hatchback in a sweeping social adventure.

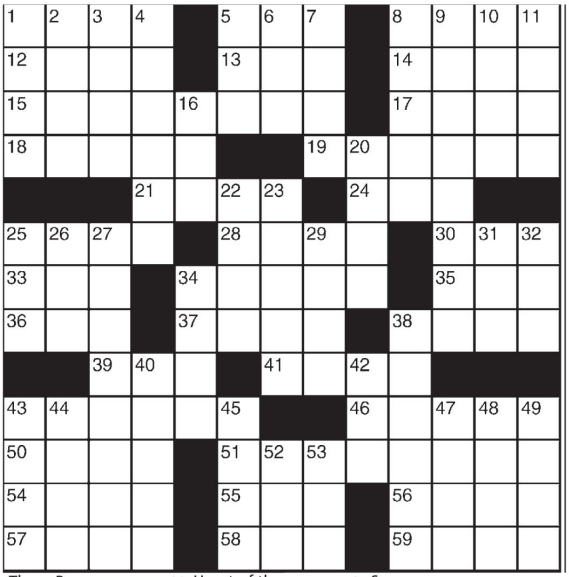
To access the game visit facebook.com/mazdacanada (Canada) and click on the DriverVille tab.

DriverVille incorporates the best of classic "ville-style" Facebook games where all game activities can be shared with friends via the social network's newsfeed. Players can customize their Your Inner Driver avatar to fit his or her driving personality and then play to win Driver Bucks virtual currency to buy virtual items as well as win weekly sweepstakes prizes.

Among the challenges are mini-games like a race at Mazda Raceway and quests like acquiring snow tires, a snowboard and accessory roof rack in order to go snowboarding.

FROM CARGUIDE

Crossword



Across

1. Venomous vipers
5. Schedule abbr.
8. Jeans-maker Strauss
12. Vegetarian's no-no
13. Navigator's aid
14. Way out
15. Publicity
17. Church area
18. Striped antelope
19. Cash in
21. Ova
24. 1960s hallucinogen
25. Carriage
28. Aquatic plant
30. Charged bit
33. Plague
34. "The rain in — ..."
35. Pair
36. Drill sergeant's syllable
37. Jailer's janglers
38. Suspenders alternative
39. Unfriendly
41. Remain
43. Frenzied
46. Camel's cousin
50. Comedian Rudner
51. Unambiguous
54. Always
55. Former space station
56. Wolfe of whodunits
57. Marries
58. Wall climber
59. Cheese choice

Down

1. "So be it"
2. Alluring
3. One of the Three Bears
4. Hot
5. Ostrich's kin
6. Pitch
7. Mimic
8. Starring roles
9. Speed up
10. Workbench attachment
11. Detail
16. Droop
20. Verve
22. Stare open-mouthed
23. Dispatches
25. Speedometer stat
26. Debtor's letters
27. Atoned
29. Heart of the matter
31. Pussycat's partner
32. "To be or — ..."
34. Terrier type
38. Newswriter's credit
40. Despots
42. Every last bit
43. Vessel's team
44. Split violently
45. Ms. Moore
47. Passed, and then some
48. Actress Sorvino
49. Teeny particle
52. "Sun King" Louis
53. Snoop

▶ Yesterday's answer

C	L	A	W	■	D	E	C	■	B	A	B	E
B	O	L	A	■	I	T	O	■	I	R	I	S
S	U	L	L	I	V	A	N	■	G	A	L	S
■	■	■	D	N	A	■	N	I	B	B	L	E
S	L	E	E	K	■	F	I	R	E	■	■	■
L	A	W	N	■	S	A	V	A	N	N	A	H
A	V	A	■	R	A	V	E	N	■	E	G	O
V	A	N	T	A	G	E	S	■	P	A	U	L
■	■	■	O	N	U	S	■	P	U	R	E	E
A	L	A	S	K	A	■	A	I	R	■	■	■
M	O	W	S	■	R	E	L	E	V	A	N	T
O	G	R	E	■	O	R	B	■	E	R	I	E
K	E	Y	S	■	S	E	A	■	Y	E	L	L

Sudoku

2			9		7			
4	1						9	7
	9			6		3		
	6		7	5				1
		8				4		
1				3	9		2	
		4		7			6	
8	7						3	5
			5		8			2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	5	8	1	2	7	6	9	4
7	6	4	8	9	3	5	2	1
2	9	1	4	6	5	7	3	8
5	3	7	9	1	2	4	8	6
9	8	2	7	4	6	3	1	5
4	1	6	3	5	8	2	7	9
1	4	5	2	7	9	8	6	3
8	2	9	6	3	4	1	5	7
6	7	3	5	8	1	9	4	2

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Katrina, it has been so long since I have seen you. I feel like every minute that goes by feels like an hour when you're not here. I can't wait until you're in my arms again. **XOXO STEVEN**

My dear Mamusik, You are the kindest, the most beautiful, the best Mom in the world! I'm so proud to be Your daughter! Wish You all the best!!! Lots of health, wealth, happiness and love!!! **YOUR IRUSIK**

Scott, Thanks for being the best husband a woman could ever ask for!! I love you so much forever and ever
Love,
YOUR MUFFIN XOXO

Bon Anniversaire Senor Frog, like the good wine taste better with taking years
Kisses and hugs, love you
YOUR PEQUENA MONITA

The Weather Network
©The Weather Network 2010

Today	Thursday	Friday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
21° / 14°	24° / 17°	25° / 17°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 19 The Sun's transit of the most creative area of your chart gives you total and utter confidence in your own abilities. Not that you were lacking before but now there will be no holding you back.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 21 Sometimes it is smarter to let others win, or think they have won, than insisting on getting your own way. Stand aside and let a partner or loved one do as they please today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone you meet today could be of great importance to you in months to come, but your paths are unlikely to cross if you stay at home staring at the walls or, worse, the TV.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You know that your financial situation demands you make changes but you keep putting them off in the hope that things might get better without any pain. They won't, so stop prevaricating and get on with it.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Others must accept you for who you are and what you are. If they are not prepared to do that then it's "Goodbye".

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You seem to be on edge at the moment but at this time of year that's perfectly natural, so stop worrying and start planning for the bright future that is not so far away. Give yourself something to look forward to.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 The time has come to choose between one group of friends and another. One group may be more exciting but is that enough? Who is most likely to stand by you when times get tough? That's who you want by your side.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may be hugely ambitious but don't get so carried away with your plans and big ideas that you overlook too many important little things.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Focus on what you are good at today and put everything else out of your mind. Other people may say you should be more realistic but what do they know?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Yes, it is possible that you will become rich overnight, but more likely you will have to work for all the good things you desire. But that's okay. Work is something you are good at.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The Sun's journey through your opposite sign is sure to bring changes in one or more of your relationships. Go with the flow.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Start the day early and get through as much work as you possibly can. The more you clear the decks now the more time you will have for more enjoyable things tomorrow.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

CHRIS RADBURN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write it! Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

AP PHOTO

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New York	from $387 + taxes & fees $113
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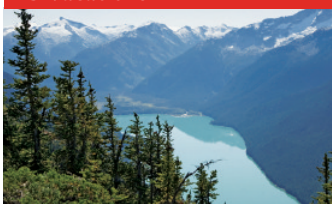
BC Vacations



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from $198 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES central accom in the heart of Whistler Village with internet and kitchenette.

Victoria 3 Nights, Fairmont — from $228 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom at the famous Fairmont Empress.

Sun Peaks Labour Day Weekend 3 Nights 4-Star — from $229 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom in the heart of Sun Peaks Village.

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Ottawa	one-way from $229 + taxes & fees $78

Vacations

Niagara Falls Family Special
1 Night + Waterpark — from $58‡‡ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES family suite accom with waterpark pass.

Toronto
3 Nights + Activity — from $239‡ taxes & fees included

BONUS choice of either CN Tower, Casa Loma or Art Gallery of Ontario admission included.

Muskoka
2 Nights + Golf — from $355‡ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES daily continental breakfast, 2 rounds of golf at Taboo GC and The Rock GC, golf cart, advanced tee times and range balls.

Ontario & Quebec
4 Nights + Rail + Tours — from $779‡ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES 2 nights Toronto accom with full day Niagara Falls tour, passage aboard VIA Rail from Toronto to Montreal and 2 nights Montreal accom with full day Quebec City tour.

ONTARIO Yours to discover

USA Vacations

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from $349 + taxes & fees $114

INCLUDES accom on the Strip. ADD Vegas Passport Ultimate Club Hopping pass from $138.

Oregon Air + Car — from $329 + taxes & fees $109

INCLUDES air into Portland and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage to explore at your own pace.

San Diego Air + 3 Nights — from $548 + taxes & fees $121

INCLUDES central accom with outdoor heated pool and internet.

New Orleans Air + 4 Nights — from $558 + taxes & fees $122

INCLUDES 4-star accom located on historic Canal Street just steps from the French Quarter. ADD harbour cruise with Creole lunch from $37.

Hawai'i Air + 7 Nights — from $649 + taxes & fees $116

INCLUDES Waikiki accom and breakfast.

Hollywood & San Francisco
Air + 7 Nights + Car — from $859 + taxes & fees $114

INCLUDES air into Los Angeles, return from San Francisco, 3 nights Hollywood accom, 4 nights Union Square accom and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage. ADD Wine Country tour from $74.

Tours

Thailand 6-Day Tour
from $455 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Chiang Mai, Hilltribe Trek & Bangkok.

Peru 7-Day Tour — from $744 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo, Inca Trail and Machu Picchu. Roundtrip Cuzco.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 3.5-Star
from $348 + taxes & fees $273

UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $7 per night.

Dominican Republic 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $588 + taxes & fees $322
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $595 + taxes & fees $290
Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $605 + taxes & fees $290

Family Vacations

Anaheim Air + 4 Nights
from $319◊ + taxes & fees $116

INCLUDES accom near the *Disneyland* Resort.

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights — from $89◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom overlooking Harrison Lake. Resort facilities include tennis, spa, waterpark and beach.

Seattle Back-to-School Shopping
2 Nights — from $99◊ taxes & fees included

Do your back to school shopping in Seattle & the Outlets and avoid the HST! INCLUDES boutique-style accom. ADD 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $55.

Whistler Fairmont
2 Nights + Golf — from $125◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom at the famous Chateau Whistler and 2 rounds of golf per room with unlimited use of the practice facility. BONUS Children ages 10-18 pay just $40 per round or FREE with paying adult.

Washington Great Wolf Lodge
2 Nights — from $143◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES family suite accom & waterpark access.

Family Special Vacations – Prices per person based on a family of 4.

Japan Vacations

Tokyo
from $699 + taxes & fees $249

INCLUDES roundtrip air to Tokyo.

ADD hotel nights	from $67 taxes & fees included
ADD city breaks	from $299 taxes & fees included
ADD Japan rail pass	from $349 taxes & fees included
ADD multi-day escorted tours	from $1999 taxes & fees included

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